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West Country Floods

SOME PHARMACIES FORCED TO CLOSE

MANY pharmacies were badly affected by floods that hit the West Country on the night of July 10-11.

Mr. D. C. Cox, Cross Pharmacy, Congresbury, Somerset, had 6 ft. of water in the shop for one-and-a-half days and estimates his loss at about £2,000. All stocks, prescriptions, paperwork and wooden fittings were destroyed. With only a three-minute warning of the approach of an 8-10 ft. wall of water from the River Yeo, he had little time to salvage anything and had, in fact, to "swim for it." Mr. Cox is now operating with his remaining metal fixtures until new ones can be made. At Wedmore, Mr. N. D. Gray of the Mendip Pharmacy was more fortunate with only about 9 in. of water in the shop—though it left behind the inevitable mud. He had the help of the local Member of Parliament's wife in cleaning out the shop and found supplies of disinfectant remaining from the foot-and-mouth outbreak much in demand. The branch of Mills & Mills (Chemists), Ltd., at Weston, Bath, was flooded to a depth of 3 ft.—at least the third flood in ten years. They, however, managed to "keep going," unlike the branch of Strode, Cosh & Penfold, Ltd., 29a East Street, Bedminster, Bristol, where 6 ft. of water has put the pharmacy out of action for at least a week. All wooden fixtures there were a "write-off." Also affected at Bedminster were the branches of Boots, Ltd., and of Hodders, Ltd., where "counter-height" flooding destroyed a third of the stock and closed the pharmacy on Thursday and Friday (though a dispensing service continued to be offered). Other Boots, Ltd. shops to be flooded in the area were that at Frome, Somerset (also closed for two days) and two branches in Bristol. Among those "more fortunate" was Mr. L. G. Bendall (Wrington Chemists), Wrington, Somerset, whose 3 in. of water in the shop caused relatively little damage and did not interfere with business.

Wholesaling and S.E.T.

DEPUTATION TO THE TREASURY

A DEPUTATION from the Federation of Wholesale Organisations told Mr. Dick Taverne (Minister of State, Treasury) on July 10 that wholesaling was inseparable from industry and distribution and was an integral part

of the whole production process. He was told of the Government's growing discrimination against the wholesaling function, especially in relation to fiscal policy and selective employment tax. It was claimed that the decision made internally by the Department of Employment and Productivity was an inequitable one, in that it had allowed a manufacturer who had his own wholesaling operation, to count in the wholesaling establishment as part of his manufacturing establishment wherever it may be located. Yet in the development areas there were a number of wholesalers who would, in September, be at a disadvantage to the extent of 75s. per man per week.

Unwanted Medicines

PHARMACISTS' ROLE IN COLLECTION

PHARMACISTS in general practice should be in the forefront of any properly organised schemes in their area involving the return of unwanted medicines from households for disposal, says a joint Pharmaceutical Society and National Pharmaceutical Union memorandum to branch and Pharmaceutical Committee secretaries. The memorandum, which has been welcomed by the Home Office (see *C. & D.*, July 13, p. 36), adds that the pharmacy is the natural place to which members of the public should be asked to return their medicines for disposal. However, branches are advised not to take part

in schemes involving collection of medicines for later re-distribution by charitable organisations or otherwise in other countries because of legal and quality difficulties. It is suggested that schemes should be organised by the local health authority and that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents should be brought in at an early stage. Returned medicines should be seen by the customer to be placed in a container issued to each pharmacy taking part in the campaign, but the container should be where it cannot be reached by the public. Collection and subsequent destruction of the medicines should be supervised by a member of the branch (assistance with destruction may be given by the health authority or the refuse disposal department). It is stressed that publicity should indicate that the medicines will not be re-used and submission to the local Press of a photograph of a batch being fed into an incinerator is recommended. A covering letter with the memorandum points out that Ro.S.P.A. is running a "Care with Medicines" campaign until September.

Currency Board

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

THE Decimal Currency Board see their rôle as setting the general framework within which individual organisations must make their own decimalisation plans, the Board say in their first annual report (H.M. Stationery Office, price 5s. 6d.). The Board's general publicity strategy, the report says, is to concentrate on management for the next year or so, then on the retail trade and other cash handling organisations during the middle period and on the general public only in the second half of 1970. The report points out



JAPANESE PHARMACISTS IN BRITAIN: Some members of a group of pharmacists from Japan who visited the Wellcome Building in the Euston Road, London, recently are here seen looking at a statue of Jenner inoculating a child against smallpox which stands at the entrance to the Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine. The party of eighteen pharmacists visited the Wellcome Foundation as part of a tour of Europe (see pp 47).

that the Decimal Currency Act 1967 does not settle how the decimal system will be introduced and, therefore, further legislation will be needed to determine such matters as how £.s.d. references in legislation, contracts and the like should be converted into decimal currency. Dealing with the changeover period after D Day on February 15, 1971, the Board warn against the common assumption that this will last as long as two years. During the next year, the report says, the Board hope to examine the shopping patterns of the changeover period and to determine policy on such matters as conversion tables and dual pricing. The Board have already examined some of the problems involved in conversion tables which will be an "essential feature" of the changeover. In the section dealing with the "biggest physical task of the changeover"—replacing or converting the five million machines affected—the Board say that because in the business world the competitive advantage lies with the firm which decimalises early and because not all machines can be fully converted in a short space of time before and after D Day, users would do well to look carefully into "pre-conversion" schemes.

Purchase Tax

EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN PROJECTORS
AT the Report Stage of the Finance Bill an amendment was approved to exempt, as from July 1, the following classes of projectors (mainly used for educational purposes) in addition to those already exempted under Group 24(1) and 24(2) of the Purchase Tax Schedule. The additional exemptions are for:—

Group 24(5)

- (i) Cinematograph projectors suitable only for film of 16mm. width; and parts and accessories suitable only for use with projectors of any of these descriptions
- (ii) Projectors suitable only for filmstrip; (iii) Cassette loaded loop projectors.

The exemption under (i) does not extend to any dual gauge projectors, i.e. those capable of taking 16 or 8mm. film. The exemption under (ii) does not extend to slide projectors which can be adapted to take filmstrip by the fitting of a filmstrip carrier in place of the slide carrier. The exemption under (iii) covers only 8mm. cinematograph loop projectors for use with a distinctive type of cassette which enables a short run of film to be shown over and over again in a continuous loop.

Trade Marks in France

WARNING TO BRITISH TRADERS

COMPANIES who have used unregistered trade marks in France for goods and services prior to August 1, 1965 are strongly advised by the Board of Trade to register the marks before July 31. The Board point out that failure to do so may lead to registration and use by competitors. There is also a real danger that unscrupulous persons might register well-known commercial names with the idea of selling them back to the actual users. The legal action necessary to redress such abuse would be long and expen-

sive. Under the new French law on Trade Marks, which came into effect on August 1, 1965, the first applicant is entitled to register a trade mark and the mere use of a mark no longer confers any proprietary rights. The law provides for a three-year transitional period, which ends on July 31, during which persons who have used a trade mark prior to August 1, 1965, but have not registered it, are given priority to register their marks. Under the new law trade marks are registered in respect of goods and services.

Pharmaceutical Industry

POINTS FROM A REVIEW

IN an annual review of British industry published by the *Financial Times*, July 15, Mr. J. A. Lumley (president, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry), points out that only six countries in the world made the export of pharmaceutical products pay (in terms of the net balance of trade) and Britain was the second most successful last year. The cost of Health Service medicines is only £110 million out of a total of £1,440 million total N.H.S. operating cost . . . yet it is the cost of medicines that is most widely discussed and perhaps most widely misunderstood, he adds. The industry hopes that the announced integration of all the social services under a single "overlord" will allow for a minister responsible for the industry who has the opportunity to understand its needs.

IRISH NEWS

THE REPUBLIC

College Merger Plan

PHARMACY TO MOVE TO TRINITY

THE Government announced on July 6 its decision that some important faculties at Trinity and University Colleges, Dublin, should merge, while each College should retain its own identity. An over-all governing body is planned for the two colleges. Under the arrangement Trinity will be the base for pharmacy (at present taught at U.C.D.).

Examination Results

SECOND YEAR SUCCESSES

THE following have passed the Second Science (Pharmacy) examination, recently held by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland: J. J. Forristal; Catherine J. M. Goldon; J. A. Leahy; Patricia A. McDermott; J. A. McElwee; Mary G. McHugh; T. N. Okakwu; Mary J. S. O'Reilly; J. C. Pettit; Mary J. Roche and P. Tam Pui Gun.

Alleged Poor Drugs

CALL FOR INQUIRY

A CALL for an inquiry into the substance of recent allegations in the British House of Commons that sub-standard drugs were being imported from the Republic, was made by the vice-president of the Pharmaceutical and Allied Industries Association, Ltd. (Mr. A. C. Martin), at a meeting of the Association in Dun Laoghaire, on July 10. The allegations had done immense harm to the pharmaceutical industry in

the Republic and overseas, said Mr. Martin. "We want it known quite certainly that none of these drugs emanated from members of our Association. We would welcome a thorough inquiry into the substance of such allegation and suggest that the offending company, or companies, be named in order to protect the interests of *bona fide* manufacturers." He added that full co-operation was being given and would continue to be given to the National Drugs Advisory Board. The Association would like to see a registration system for new approved drugs with an N.D.A.B. approval stamp which would, they felt, be a hallmark of quality and efficacy for the home and export markets.

Pharmaceutical Congress

GALWAY PROGRAMME COMPLETE

PROGRAMME for the Irish Pharmaceutical Congress in Galway, October 6-9 is now complete. Opening ceremony is being performed by the mayor of Galway in the Great Southern hotel at 8.30 p.m. on October 6. After religious ceremonies at 10 a.m. on October 7, there will be a discussion at 11.15 a.m. on "Doctor/Pharmacist Relations". The session is being chaired by Dr. P. D. O'Beirne, and speakers are the treasurer of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Mr. R. J. Power); Dr. M. J. Dyer and Mr. P. M. Guerin, M.P.S.I. At 3.30 p.m. delegates will be received at University College, Galway, by the president Dr. M. Newell, and a talk is being given in the university by Professor E. N. McDermott. Annual meeting of the Society is at 8.30 p.m. At 11 a.m. on October 8, with Professor J. M. Lavella in the chair, Mr. P. Deasy speaks on "Investigations into the Combined Effect of Heat, Bactericides and Gamma-irradiation for Pharmaceutical Sterilisation". Professor M. E. Folan will also speak. The afternoon is devoted to golf and to a coach tour of Connemara. At 8.30 p.m. a symposium, "Europe—A Challenge to Irish Pharmacy", chaired by the president of the Society (Mr. M. L. Cashman) includes as speakers Mr. A. G. M. Madge, M.P.S., Plymouth; Professor R. F. Timoney (dean of the College of Pharmacy); Mr. J. P. O'Donnell and Mr. M. F. Walsh (Council members). At 11 a.m. on October 9, Dr. T. P. O'Connor presiding, Mr. A. G. Fishburn lectures on "A National Quality-control System". Other speakers are Professor P. J. Cannon, Mr. Brian Owen and Dr. P. P. O'Donovan. A reception at 7.30 p.m. in the Great Southern hotel is followed by a banquet. Lectures, symposium and annual meeting are being held in the hotel. Congress tickets, price £16 16s. each, may be had from the treasurer, Congress Reception Committee, Bosco, Bothar Mhuire, Galway. Banquet tickets are £2 5s. and lecture tickets £1 1s. each. Cheques, made payable to the Congress Reception Committee, should be crossed "Irish Pharmaceutical Association". Congress tickets include accommodation, meals, banquet, and lectures. Early application for tickets is advised.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE annual court of governors of the Royal Pinner School Foundation is to be held at Caxton Hall, London, S.W.1, on July 26 at 3 p.m.

THE Ministers of Health have set up an independent committee to review the present arrangements for the conduct of hospital building maintenance and minor capital works.

FOR the present communications to the Distributive Industry Training Board should be addressed to the Secretary at Cumberland House, Lissadel Street, Pendleton, Salford, 6 (see p. 50).

THE report of the National Computing Centre conference on computers in distribution (see *C. & D.*, April 13, p. 321) has now been published by the National Economic Development Office and is available free from 21 Millbank, London, S.W.1.

A PARTY of Japanese pharmacists is visiting Europe under the patronage of the weekly chemists' newspaper *Yaku-kyoku-Shimbun* in order to study "drug stores" and the pharmaceutical industry so that they can adopt "advanced points" for their "future prosperity." The party was recently in Great Britain.

CODOXIME (international non-proprietary name for dihydrocodeinone-6-carboxymethoxyimine) is being added to Schedule I to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. The Home Office is preparing an Order in Council to add the substance to paragraph 1 to the Schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Act.

ONE of the two pharmacies in Polegate, Eastbourne, Sussex, having closed, the other was left to cater for the whole of the town's 7,000 population. East Sussex Executive Council meeting at Lewes recently was told of the urgent need for another chemist. The clerk (Mr. P. Park) said an approach had been made to Eastbourne chemists to see if one would be prepared to open a branch at Polegate, so far unsuccessfully.

SPORT

GOLF

MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL GOLFING SOCIETY. A four-ball Stableford competition was played at the Society's invitation meeting at Manchester Golf Club, Hopwood, on July 10. *Results:* 1, Dr. J. Gourley and Mr. M. L. Donaldson; 2, Messrs. J. Bentham and E. M. McIntosh.

LONDON CHEMISTS' GOLFING SOCIETY. A most successful meeting at Moor Park Golf Club is reported to have been held on July 11, in excellent weather conditions. *Results:* President's putter and prize (medal), D. C. Rogers (10) 67. Savory & Moore cup and prize (Stableford), J. R. Jenkins (18) 35 points. The Society reports that a number of vacancies are available for new members who must be either pharmacists or directly connected with the wholesale or retail chemists trade. Application should be made to R. J. Boulderstone, c/o Glastics, Ltd., 9 Salisbury Road, Barnet, Herts.

LOCAL OFFICERS

GUILD OF PUBLIC PHARMACISTS

London.—Chairman, Miss C. Walsh; Treasurer, Miss E. M. Brighten; Secretary, J. B. G. Parker, Pharmacy Department, East Ham Memorial Hospital, Shrewsbury Road, London, E.7.

TOPICAL REFLECTIONS

By Xrayser

Affairs in Scotland

REPORTS in your issue of last week throw some light on the activities of pharmacists in Scotland. The word "activities" seems to be particularly appropriate for it is evident that those who look after the affairs of the Pharmaceutical Society, together with those whose province it is to look after the interests of contractors in the Health Service, are very much alive. I note that the annual meeting of members of the Society resident in Scotland was attended by the president and vice-president of the Pharmaceutical Society (Messrs. A. Howells and W. M. Darling) and was addressed by the secretary and registrar, Mr. D. F. Lewis (p. 40). The report does not indicate whether the visit was a missionary one or whether it reflected anxiety over the arrival at Westminster of a Member of Parliament elected in the Scottish Nationalist interest. One prefers to think it was a goodwill mission, for none of the party seems cast to play the rôle of Cumberland. I have no doubt that the members in Scotland were glad of the opportunity of seeing and hearing Mr. Lewis and that his comprehensive and authoritative address on the Medicines Bill and on the growth of health centres interested those who heard it as well as those in other parts of the country who read the published version. It is for the good of pharmacy as a whole that there should be organisations in Scotland able to reflect the views of pharmacists there, and it was not the least of the work of Jacob Bell when he laid the foundations for the present organisation north of the Tweed. That there is a different outlook is clearly exemplified by the report on p. 26 of the assessment of the effect of the new prescription charges in Scotland. It is important to note that the Scottish contractors went further than to point out the shortcomings and difficulties of the—I find it difficult to find the word I want, for "method" is too strong, "scheme" suggests a plan, and "system" is what it is not. Let's settle for enigma.

Imposition challenged

I think the contractors' committee in Scotland is to be congratulated on the speed with which it was in a position to provide evidence for the arbiter, who lost no time in weighing the evidence of both sides and publishing his findings (p. 26). It was perhaps to be expected that the figures produced by the contractors taken from a quickly organised survey, would be countered by an official survey, but the arbiter wisely steered a middle course. His task was a difficult one, and his statement on the whole seems fairly sound, but in one passage which I shall quote there seemed to me to be a weakness: "It has to be noted that the manner of observation was that the observer, having selected a form for timing, followed that form through until it had been accepted and then started to time the next form that came under his observation. It is a consequence of this method that, if a form which took a long time was under observation, a large number of forms which took much shorter time might escape count." Conversely, it might seem that some of the times recorded were for those which took only a short time, while some which took a long time might have escaped count. Nevertheless, the arbiter exhibited a comprehensive appreciation of the points made on both sides and his assessment brought out that the imposed figure of one penny per prescription was inadequate. But it is not only a question of financial recompense for time consumed. There is the unhappy experience of being held publicly responsible for the effects of the charges—unreasonable, of course, but far from pleasant. And there is also the inconvenience to members of the public who, by the time they have struggled with the first series of alternatives on the back of the form, are not quite sure if they are the patient, the patient's parent or guardian, or the patient's representative.

Calligraphy

A feature of the new prescription form is that the signatures appearing on the back of the exempt forms are in contrast to those on the other side. They are readable.

GALWAYS DRUG SCHEME

Clinics to cater for hardship cases

DRUGS and medicines prescribed by private doctors for hardship cases in co. Galway are in future being dispensed by the pharmacist at Tuam clinic. Those who do not wish to attend the clinic may make application to have supplies sent to his doctor from the clinic at Shantalla. In the remainder of the county doctors will submit prescriptions to the Shantalla clinic for supply by post.

A report in the issue of the *Connacht Tribune* of July 15 states that at a recent meeting of the county council the county manager had told the Council that chemists refused to operate the system that had been in operation for the past seven months. Under that scheme people could get drugs or medicines by getting a prescription from their own doctor. Then went to a chemist who filled the prescription having the drugs replaced in his stocks by the county council afterwards.

On June 24, members of the Galway City and County Chemists' Association had told him the scheme was unsuitable. They complained that it involved them in financial loss, additional clerical work and accumulation of stocks of which they could not readily dispose of and they proposed to discontinue operating the scheme from June 30.

The chemists were prepared to operate a similar scheme to that used in Donegal under which the retail price of medicines was reduced by fifteen per cent. if the items cost up to £2 and twenty per cent. if the items cost over £2 but it would cost £10,000 per year to run in Galway.

[The county manager's statement was incorrect in that the Galway chemists were objecting to a modification of the scheme whereby they would be supplied from the county clinic with stock from broken bulk (see p. 60)—*Editor.*]

CONSUMER COUNCIL AND CHEMISTS

Second survey indicates no control over aspirin sales

ANOTHER "spot check" by the Consumer Council has revealed that some pharmacists do not offer warnings to customers who ask for large quantities of aspirin-based medicines. An earlier check (see *C. & D.*, July 13, p. 35) produced a sharp reply from the president of the Pharmaceutical Society (Mr. A. Howells) who, in a letter to *The Times Business News* (July 12), suggested that the Council came to a "snap judgment" against making such medicines available only through pharmacies. "To found a judgment upon such trivial evidence [only seven pharmacies were visited] is to be blind to the fact that the vast majority of pharmacists regard it as a professional duty to advise the public on medicines, and do so daily. They have to compete with the advertising copywriter who, more often than not, has the public 'sold' on self-diagnosis and self-medication before they, the trained advisers on medicines, can get a word in." The Pharmaceutical Society, wrote Mr. Howells, had sought to persuade the public to seek the pharmacist's advice. "Pharmacists themselves feel entitled to look, not least to the Consumer Council, for an even wider understanding of their rôle."

Eleven Warnings

In reply, Miss Elizabeth Ackroyd (director, Consumer Council), reports a new series of checks (*The Times Business News*, July 16). Out of forty-three pharmacies visited in Central London only eleven issued any kind of warning about the use of aspirin-based products or queried the investigators' desire to buy large quantities of the strongest products the shops had to offer. [A spokesman for the Consumer Council told the *C. & D.* that a cross-section of multiple and private pharmacies in ten areas were visited. Investigators asked for the "strongest aspirin-based product avail-

able;" quantities up to 1,000 were supplied with no question asked about the purpose of the purchase. More compound codeine tablets were offered than any other product. Of the eleven persons issuing warnings, five appeared to be pharmacists (two, in "multiples" advised against taking too many; three others asked why so many tablets were required). Six other "pharmacists" seen issued no warnings and in the remaining cases the person serving was obviously not a pharmacist.]

Miss Ackroyd continues:—

We are as much concerned as Mr. Howells with uninformed self-medication. The problem, as we see it, is that on the whole people are not informed by phar-

macists about the dangers of self-medication with aspirin-based products.

We recognise of course that the Pharmaceutical Society is concerned with the volume of business done through pharmacists. Sales through supermarkets and the like are naturally a threat to this. The Consumer Council would certainly not support the free sale of products which are dangerous to the public if misused. Mr. Howells does not comment on our suggestion that if aspirin-based drugs are hazardous, they should be sold only on prescription. I know that prescription medicines do not present a very generous margin to the pharmacist compared with over-the-counter products (10 to 11 per cent. I believe, as against 25 per cent.).

The Council has reached the conclusion that the problem would be in some way diminished if revised regulations were issued making it compulsory for adequate information about dosage, side-effects, contra-indications, expiry date and danger of addiction, etc., to be put on the label. If any drug such as aspirin is regarded as particularly dangerous, the Council thinks that a curb on advertising or a restriction on the supply of the drug on prescription are more suitable methods of control than the restriction of the sale to pharmacies.

Part I Poison Control "A Sham"

Islington, London, consumer group, according to the August issue of *Focus* (the Consumer Council's magazine), has said in its magazine that the supervision of Part I poison sales by pharmacists is "often nothing more than a sham." The safety arguments for restricting the sale of all medicines could, it is claimed, apply equally well to carving knives and motor cars. The group hopes that the general sale list proposed in the Medicines Bill will be "realistically extensive."

The National Grocers' Federation will be consulted in drawing up the general sales list, the Ministry of Health has indicated, reports *The Grocer* (July 13).

HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Proposals on poisoning treatment centres and immunisation

POISONING treatment centres, on the basis of the district general hospital or its existing complex, should be established, equipped, staffed and designated throughout the country, a subcommittee of the Central Health Services Council has recommended. The recommendation, contained in the Council's report for 1967 (H.M. Stationery Office, price 3s. 6d.), is that each centre should have at least one consultant available and have associated laboratory facilities capable of quantitative estimation of carbon monoxide, alcohol, barbiturates, salicylates and iron in blood, and phenothiazines in urine, qualitatively only, at short notice. The centres should be sited in hospitals with a psychiatric unit able to provide emergency services. It is also recommended that specialised units should be set up, with more advanced support, to carry out research and develop new methods of treatment.

The sub committee had found that in England and Wales total deaths from poisoning reached a peak at 6,398 in 1963 but decreased in the

next three years, a similar trend obtaining in Scotland. The majority of deaths from poisoning in adults were the result of deliberate self-administration, accidental death being found almost exclusively in children under ten years of age. It is considered that the majority of the child deaths are avoidable. The recommendation that solid-dose medicines should be identifiable is reiterated and the subcommittee also considers that all prescribed and dispensed medicines should be labelled with the name of the contents unless the prescriber directs to the contrary.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has recommended that there should be a single (and flexible) schedule of immunisation in childhood. It is proposed that the earliest age at which the first dose of triple vaccine or oral poliomyelitis vaccine is recommended should be three months, it being stressed, however, that better response can be expected if the first dose is delayed until six months of age. An interval of six to eight weeks is recommended between the

first and second doses and an interval of six months between the second and third doses. Reinforcing doses in the second year are considered unnecessary if that schedule is followed, as is the diphtheria and tetanus toxoid boosting dose at 8-12 years if a booster is given at five years of age or at school entry. A booster dose of tetanus toxoid is recommended at 15-19 years or on leaving school. Primary vaccination against smallpox should be regarded, it is considered, as the first of a series of vaccinations to be given through childhood to adult life. Revaccinations are recommended at school entry and on leaving school.

During the year, also, the committee agreed that the antigenicity of pertussis vaccines should be further studied and that all children from one

year upwards, who had not had measles, should be offered live attenuated measles vaccine if they had not already been immunised against the disease.

The Standing Nursing Advisory Committee discussed the need for revision of the existing advice about control and administration of drugs in hospitals and recommended the setting up of a joint subcommittee with the Standing Medical and Pharmaceutical Advisory Committees. [This proposal has been shelved pending the outcome of surveys already being undertaken by the Ministry of Health in hospitals where procedures for drug control and administration are functioning satisfactorily.—Editor.] The Standing Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee of the Central Health Services Council did not meet during the year.

EXPORTING CHEMICALS TO BRAZIL

An improved economic climate should help U.K. trade

TRADING conditions with Brazil were now easier than they had been for many years, said Dr. J. E. Sisson (director, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.), at a seminar held in London on July 10 on the British Industrial Exhibition to be staged in São Paulo, Brazil, March 5-16, 1969. Dealing particularly with exporting chemicals to Brazil, Dr. Sisson said that from 1960 to 1966 trading was exceptionally difficult — so difficult that stories of those days still tended to make newcomers over-cautious about entering that market. Those were the days of high inflation, prior deposits and shortage of credit, and with erosion of working capital and taxation on notional profits (profits not adjusted for inflation) it was almost (sometimes quite) impossible to make a "real" profit on trading.

Inflation Slowing Down

There were now signs that the rate of inflation was slowing down. At the end of 1966 importers no longer had to pay cruzeiros into the bank before getting an import permit. At the same time more imports were allowed into Brazil and credit became more easily available. Because of those improvements his company had to absorb a

much smaller erosion charge and could, therefore, afford to sell more ex stock.

In the second half of 1967 the company were exporting to Brazil at a rate of £2 million a year — a 50 per cent increase — and in the first five months of 1968 they exported at an annual rate of £3.3 million. Devaluation had played some part in that increase but the main reason was that their company in Brazil could afford to take more orders with the working capital at their disposal, knowing that they could make a profit on the business, also the holding of stocks of some speciality products enabled them to

give quicker delivery to the Brazilian customer.

I.C.I.'s share of Brazil's chemical imports was almost exactly the same as I.C.I.'s percentage share of the total world chemical export business, thus it appeared they had no special difficulties with Brazilian conditions at present.

A first glance at U.K.-Brazil trade figures showed the U.K.'s share of chemical exports to Brazil disappointingly low at 6 per cent in 1966, but it was rising. It was 7.4 per cent in the first half of 1967 and he thought the share was still rising. The U.K.'s share of world chemical exports was 11.6 per cent in the first half of 1967, so there was still some way to go to bring Brazil up to the U.K. overall average for O.E.C.D. countries.

Dr. Sisson's advice to anyone wishing to start exporting to Brazil was first to find a good agent, preferably in São Paulo (at least one-half of Brazil's industrial capacity was in the State of São Paulo). An initial visit was essential to get the feel of the market, and follow-up visits would be necessary, especially if any degree of technical service was required. Careful consideration must be given to the appropriate level of stocks to be held in the country. Ex-stock selling, while giving quick delivery to the customer, was likely to prove expensive. As a general rule, agents handling business on a direct indent basis where no financing was needed, would expect to be paid up to 5 per cent for bulk commodity products; 5-10 per cent. for general material; and 10 per cent. upwards for material needing technical knowledge.

MEDICINE PATENTS

Through Commons

BY a narrow majority of three (87 to 84) the House of Commons on July 10 passed a clause in the Health Services and Public Health Bill which extends the provisions relating to Crown use of patented drugs to the general and pharmaceutical services. The House was considering a number of amendments made by the Lords. In moving the controversial clause on the use of patents the Minister of Health (MR. KENNETH ROBINSON) said the clause reinstated in principle Clause 25 of the Bill which was inserted at committee stage and deleted on report stage in the Lords (see *C. & D.* June 1, p. 487). The clause added in committee, though substantially redrafted, had broadly the same effect as the new clause which the Commons added on report.

Effect Similar

The effect of all three clauses and the one he was now moving were similar, namely to extend to the general medical and pharmaceutical services the provisions relating to Crown use of patented drugs and medicines which under section 46 of the Patents Act 1949 already existed in respect of the hospital service. There was need for an effective and expeditious procedure of last resort to deal with the exceptional case where a pharmaceutical firm insisted on unreasonable prices and where price control was not effective. The clause did not involve any funda-

CLAUSE REDRAFTED

on majority of three

mental change in the patent law. There was no intention of using this provision in any way other than that envisaged by the Sainsbury Committee: namely as a procedure of last resort in the exceptional case where, after fair and detailed negotiation, a patentee insisted on prices which Ministers could not accept as reasonable. Although the industry naturally disliked any erosion of their patent rights, he found it hard to believe that the industry in general shared the exaggerated views expressed in the Lords.

MR. MAURICE MACMILLAN said that by his proposal the Minister was to some extent frustrating the whole purpose of the patent legislation and was determined to have power to impose lower prices for political reasons regardless of whether or not those prices were fair. He reminded the House that the Section 46 powers which the Minister was invoking were originally for defence, and were extended once only in the past to apply to questions of costs. He was stretching the intention of the original Act beyond both common sense and common justice.

MR. D. CROUCH said there was no dispute that the Minister should have some power in the event of breakdown, but the new clause was a blunt instrument and a repudiation of what the Sainsbury Committee had envisaged.

MR. W. O. J. ROBINSON reminded the House that it was a Conservative



CEREMONIOUSLY PRESENTED: The Lord Lieutenant of the County of Chester (Viscount Leverhulme, T.D.) presents, at the headquarters of I.C.I., Ltd., pharmaceuticals division, the Queen's Award for Industry which the division won this year for the third year in succession. Receiving the award is the division's chairman (Mr. R. G. Hoare, F.P.S.), right. At left is the overseas director (Mr. A. Baxter). Every employee who worked with the Division during 1967 has been presented with a voucher for a £1 Premium bond.

Minister of Health who had invoked the provisions of the Patents Act and his action had been up-held in the courts. It could not be argued that there was any difference between giving a drug to a patient in hospital and giving the same drug to him in his own home via the family doctor.

SIR TUFTON BEAMISH said the new clause was dishonourable. The Minister had promised that he would not legislate before consulting the industry, but there had been no consultations. It was unwise and unnecessary to anticipate the Banks Committee at present studying patents.

MR. N. FISHER said the purpose of the clause was to enable the Government to obtain the medicines they want at their own price: "that is legalised

robbery of a patent right by a Government department. It is just the sort of erosion of private rights against which Parliament should protect the people. It is also a bonus for the copyists at the expense of innovators."

Replying, MR. K. ROBINSON said that royalties would be determined in a court of law on the same basis of fairness and equity and would be paid by the Government to the patent holder in respect of sales which the Government made from unlicensed sources.

The remaining Lords' amendments (giving power to make regulations providing for the issue of certificates which would enable holders to be exempt from the payment of prescription charges) were agreed to.

IN PARLIAMENT

BY A MEMBER OF THE PRESS GALLERY, HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE "Chemists' Representative Body" had recently written to the Ministry making representations on a number of points and the letter was receiving urgent consideration, said MR. KENNETH ROBINSON (Minister of Health) on July 9 when replying to DAME IRENE WARD, who asked about the representations he had received from dispensing chemists on the problems arising following the restoration of prescription charges. On the same day, MR. LAURENCE PAVITT asked the Minister of Health about the recompense given to dispensing chemists, "for the additional labour in collecting the prescription levy." He was told that the temporary addition of the penny per prescription was agreed with the chemists' representatives for prescriptions dispensed between June 10 and August 31. From September 1 the percentage oncost paid to chemists as part of their remuneration would be raised to 11 per cent. The cost was likely to be about £450,000 in the current financial year and £500,000 next year. The Minister added "remuneration as a whole is expected to be reviewed in 1969 in the light of the next regular inquiry into chemists' expenses, which will show the current level of their labour and over-head costs including those caused by the task of collecting the charges."

Instructions of Prescription Forms

MR. LAURENCE PAVITT asked the Minister of Health if he would alter the text of E.C.10 prescription forms to include the words "to be completed before taking the prescription to the chemists if you claim exemption." In a written answer on July 9 MR. ROBINSON pointed out that words to that effect were already included, but the Ministry was considering possible improvements in the design of the form, including suggestions made by the Central N.H.S. (Chemist Contractors') Committee.

Free Medicines

MR. PAVITT asked the Minister of Health what action he proposed to take against those dispensing chemists who had decided to dispense medicines free of charge for a month as a pro-

test against the imposition of prescription charges. MR. ROBINSON, in a written reply, on July 9 stated he saw no reason to take any special action against such chemists. The National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations, 1968 provided that chemists' remuneration should be reduced by the charges they had received from the patient.

Prescription Forms

SIR CYRIL OSBORNE asked the Minister of Health if he would issue prescription forms of different colours for those exempt from payment and those who had to pay, "so as to ease the work in chemists' shops which under existing circumstances is onerous and unprofitable." In a written reply on July 9, MR. ROBINSON indicated he was at present considering the long-term arrangements of prescription charges and exemptions. The use of different coloured forms was discussed with representatives of the medical profession but was unacceptable to them.

Spot Checks on Retail Trading

MR. J. BARNETT asked the President of the Board of Trade for the latest figures on spot checks on retail trading; in a written answer on July 10, MRS. GWYNNE DUNWOODY (Parliamentary Secretary) stated that after falling sharply in April, the volume of retail sales fell slightly further in May to a level about the same, allowing for seasonal factors, as that prevailing in the first half of 1967. Reports of sales trends in June, which the Minister was receiving from some large businesses, did not suggest any marked change.

Distributive Industry Training Board

MRS. BARBARA CASTLE (Secretary of State, Employment and Productivity) on July 12 laid before a Parliament Orders constituting an industrial training board for the distributive industry. The Industrial Training (Distributive Board) Order (H.M. Stationery Office price 1s. 9d.) comes into operation on July 25. The Distributive Industry Training Board will cover over 2½ million workers engaged in the retail, wholesale and importing trades other than in each case the baking, meat,

milk, greengrocery and fish trades. It will also cover most companies distributing industrial raw materials. The Board's chairman is to be Mr. G. A. Spencer (chairman of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd, Salford).

Prescribing Addiction Drugs

Asked by MR. L. PAVITT on July 9 if he would take steps to make it illegal to prescribe drugs of addiction or dependence other than through the N.H.S., MR. K. ROBINSON said he would examine the question when he received the awaited report from the Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence.

Prescription Charge Exemptions

The Minister of Social Security (MRS. JUDITH HART), was under fire from many members on July 15 on the question of prescription charge exemptions. Typical of the questions asked was that of MR. M. LIPTON who said: "Do you realise that in all quarters, and everywhere in the country, this whole business of prescription charges is now regarded as a complicated fiasco? In view of the fact that savings will be negligible, hasn't the time really come for the whole wretched business to be abandoned."

MRS. HART in her replies attempted to show that a large number of applications for exemptions from charges on grounds of hardship had been received. She said from June 10 to June 18, 5,000 applications were received and just over 2,000 exemption certificates issued only 362 required refunds. That, she said, suggested that most had claimed in advance of ever having to pay a charge.

MR. F. LUBBOCK however suggested that the small number of applications that had been received showed that many people entitled to exemption had not understood the scheme sufficiently well to make application and asked if she had not seen the figures which showed that a 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. drop had taken place in the number of prescriptions following the introduction of the new scheme?

MRS. HART said that her figures referred to the very first week because those were the latest figures they had.

MR. A. HUNTER asked the Secretary of State for Scotland on July 11 how many representations he had received from chemists about complications in the procedure of exemptions arising from the reintroduction of prescription charges, relating in particular to prescriptions for the aged and infirm.

MR. W. ROSS (Secretary of State) replied that Scottish chemists were critical of the arrangements proposed for exemptions. Since the scheme was introduced he had received, through M.P.'s, two representations from individual chemists about difficulties in operating it.

Hearing Aids

MR. PAVITT asked the Minister of Health on July 15 when he expected to begin the issue of ear level hearing aids to children.

MR. ROBINSON: Before the end of the year.

COMPANY NEWS

Previous year's figures in parentheses

SMITH & NEPHEW ASSOCIATED COMPANIES, LTD.—Group profit, before tax, for 24 weeks ended June 15, £2,566,000 (£1,731,000, same 1967 period). Sales increased by 17.7 per cent. Interim dividend 7 per cent. (3½ per cent.).

REICHHOLD CHEMICALS LTD.—An offer of 37s. a share has been received from Unilever, Ltd. The offer which values the equity at £13m., is to be accepted by the directors in respect of their own holdings and they recommended other shareholders to follow suit.

ODEX RACASAN, LTD.—Group turnover for year ended March 31, £1.9 m. (£1.7 m.); profit, £241,316 (£187,263) less tax, £109,375 (£79,774). Total dividend for year, is restricted to 36 per cent. by the Treasury. It would otherwise have been 40 per cent. (35 per cent.).

HICKSON & WELCH (HOLDINGS), LTD.—Group profit, before taxation for half-year ended March 31, before adjusting for the interest of outside shareholders in subsidiaries, £722,000 (£685,000 in same period of 1967), after charging depreciation, £210,000 (£177,000). An interim dividend of 6 per cent. (same) is declared.

TIMOTHY WHITES & TAYLORS, LTD.—A meeting of members on July 10, approved by the requisite majorities resolutions for the merger of the company with Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd. The scheme remains subject to the sanction of the High Court and it is expected to become operative on or about August 2.

FARBBWERKE HOECHST, AG.—Professor Winnacker (chairman) who will be sixty-five in September, has informed the board that he wishes to resign after the annual meeting in mid 1969. Dr. Rolf Sammet (a member of the board of management since 1962) is being considered as successor to Professor Winnacker.

ELI LILLY & CO., Indianapolis, U.S.A.—World-wide sales for the first half of the year estimated at \$250.4 m. (\$223.1 m. in same 1967 period); net income, \$37.2 m. (\$30.0 m.). Earnings per share \$2.27 (\$1.86). Results for the second half are not expected to reach the levels of the first six months due to the effect of seasonal demands. New plant near Strasbourg, France, will manufacture for the company's whole European Common Market activities.

SYNTEX CORPORATION (represented in the U.K. by Syntex Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.) plans to participate in the ownership of two new corporations which will carry on advanced research projects. One new corporation will concentrate on the development of hormonal methods for insect control and the other, to be named Alza Corporation, will engage in research in the field of drug-delivery systems. Commenting on the field of interest of Alza Corporation, Dr. A. Zaffaroni (president), states that while great progress has been made by the pharmaceutical industry in developing new

drugs, relatively little research has been concentrated on developing radically new ways to deliver drugs within the body.

HODDERS, LTD.—Group turnover for year ended March 31, £2,185,512 (£2,090,776); trading profit, £42,712 (£42,704); group profit after taxation, £124,953 (£1,32,757) of which £124,574 (£132,378) is attributable to parent company. Total dividend for year 25 per cent. (same). The chairman (Mr. L. H. Shaw), in the annual report blames the ever mounting overheads, many uncontrollable, for the slight fall of 1.62 per cent. in trading profit. Selective employment tax alone had cost £18,500 for the full year or £8,500 more than in the previous year. The Ministry of Health's reduced payments for prescriptions negated any increase from larger volume of prescriptions dispensed during the year. Total business in current year shows "a satisfactory increase."

BOOTS PURE DRUG CO., LTD.—First quarter sales had shown an increase of 8.3 per cent., reported Mr. Willoughby R. Norman (chairman) at the annual meeting on July 11. Counter sales alone, excluding dispensing, had risen by 10.8 per cent. This difference was principally due to the initial effect on prescriptions since the charge was re-introduced. Mr. Norman told the meeting that shareholders of Timothy Whites and Taylors had accepted the Boots merger by an "overwhelming majority." He added: "From this merger we are going to obtain a wider and better chain of stores throughout the country with shops selling a larger inventory. Then we are going to obtain economies from our manufacturing, buying and distribution systems. We will press ahead with the greatest possible speed so that we can obtain these benefits as soon as possible."

Bankruptcy Hearing

HARRY ISAAC PRESMAN, 105 Brim Hill, London, N.2, formerly director of bleach and household chemical dealing companies.—The London bankruptcy court was told that Mr. Presman's statement of affairs disclosed he had no assets to meet debts of £59,606. But Mr. Presman, who was previously bankrupt 28 years ago, said some £55,926 of the debts may be wiped out. Questioned by the official receiver, Mr. Presman said that in 1946 he formed Durazone, Ltd., to distribute bleach. He had another company called Ocean Chemical Co., which dealt in caustic soda, but that went into liquidation. The first company became dormant. He said he had also been managing director of Durazone (Sales), Ltd., formed to manufacture and deal in bleach and detergents. That company went into liquidation 5 months ago. The deficiency was estimated at £61,010, according to a statement of affairs, but Mr. Presman said the assets were worth as much as the debts. Another company, Aerosol Fillers, Ltd., also went into liquidation. He would not agree he was to blame for the company's failure. The official receiver asked if he agreed that the list of companies that had failed was

quite impressive. Mr. Presman: "No I don't think so." He added that the figures in the various failures were all repeated figures. All the debts were covered by securities. The reason the figures were repeated was because of personal guarantees given by him. The official receiver said he accepted there had been some duplication of the figures. The public examination was concluded.

BUSINESS CHANGES

PAKISTAN CHEMISTS & DRUGGISTS' ASSOCIATION have removed to 18 Sheikh Chambers, Floor 2, Near Light House Cinema, Bunder Road, Karachi, 1.

BOOTS, LTD., have opened a branch at 39 New Strand, Bootle, Lancs. New Strand is a shopping precinct the first phase of which is currently scheduled to be officially opened in October.

DONALD WAYMARK, LTD., Bedford, has been incorporated with Britton, Malcolm & Co., Ltd. and now operates from 38 Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.E.1.

INGRAM & ROYLE, LTD., has been incorporated in Schweppes (Agencies), Ltd., the full title is now: Schweppes (Agencies), Ltd., Incorporating Ingram & Royle, 17 Holywell Row, London, E.C.2 (telephone: 01-247 5027).

APPOINTMENTS

Executives

LEVER BROTHERS & ASSOCIATES, LTD., have appointed Mr. B. K. Bezant, their chief chemicals buyer.

PERSONALITIES

MR. K. SMITH, M.P.S., managing director, Ken Smith & Sons, Ltd., Bridge Street, Spalding, Lincs, has been installed as the twenty-first president of the Spalding Rotary Club.

MR. P. RONSON, a representative of Lenthalic, Ltd., has won a 10-day visit to the United States for a record-breaking sales performance on behalf of the company. As well as sightseeing Mr. Ronson will study American cosmetic sales methods.

MR. N. A. ILLIFF (managing director, Shell Chemicals U.K., Ltd.) has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. Mr. Illiff is president of the Society of Chemical Industry and vice-president of the Chemical Industries Association.

SIR ARNOLD FRANCE, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, is to take over as chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue in October. He has been at the Ministry since 1963 where he has devoted much time to pay and conditions in the Health Service. He advised the Minister on the re-introduction of prescription charges and was responsible for a Green Paper on the structure of the Health Service to be published shortly. His successor is to be Mr. Alan Marre.

MISS JANE E. MAPSTONE elder daughter of Mr. T. J. Mapstone, (chief pharmacist, Harefield Hospital and a past chairman of Middlesex Pharmaceutical Committee) has won the first prize of £25 offered by the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children for a poem showing the feelings of a normal person trying to think like a mentally handicapped child. Entries were received from over 1,000 schools.

MR. H. G. LAZELL, chairman, Beecham Group, Ltd., since 1958, has been declared "Marketing Man of the Year" by the Institute of Marketing. The award to Mr. Lazell, who controls the management and marketing teams throughout the Group, is not made for success in marketing a single product, but in recognition of the progressive and continuing success of the Group in expanding markets for its products all over the world. Mr. Lazell is to become president of the Group on November 1 on retirement from full executive office.

MR. T. P. TOHER, proprietor of the Sligo Drug Co., Stephen Street, Sligo, has retired. Mr. Toher commenced his business life in Sligo in 1917, when he was appointed manager of the former Boyers' Medical Hall. After a short period in charge of that establishment he purchased the Sligo Drug Co., later buying another pharmacy in O'Connell Street, which he carried on as Toher's Medical Hall. For seven years Mr. Toher was president of the local chamber of commerce and for eleven years of the Sligo Industrial Development Corporation, which was responsible for setting up industries and factories in the town, among them the Sligo Spinning Co., Ltd., of which Mr. Toher was a director. Throughout his life Mr. Toher has also been active in the sporting life of the town particularly in golf and football. With his retirement all departments in the Sligo Drug Co. have been transferred to the O'Connell Street establishment, which is run as Toher's Chemists by his son Tony.

OVERSEAS VISITS

FIVE outstanding sixth-formers have been selected by a joint committee of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and the Association for Science Education as Royal Institution Australian Science Scholars, 1968. The scholars (two of them girls) met the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace on July 9 to receive a medal and certificate. In August they fly via the United States to Sydney, where they will attend twenty lectures by distinguished scientists. The return journey will include two-day stops at Bangkok, Thailand and Delhi, India. Both the girls (Anne Stimson, Woodford Green,

and Lina Talbot, Torquay) intend to study biochemistry.

MR. S. L. HIGNETT (director, Veterinary Research, Wellcome Foundation, Ltd.) flew out to Nairobi on July 14 as a member of a three-man team that will make a special two-week study of veterinary and agricultural research in Kenya at the invitation of the Kenya Minister for Agriculture. The other members of the team are Dr. H. A. Rodenbisher of the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States and Dr. R. Cunningham of the Ministry of Overseas Development in Britain. The three-man team is charged to submit a report "not later than August 14" on the "organisation, programmes, facilities and staffing of agricultural and veterinary research in Kenya with reference to Kenya's participation in and dependence upon East African and international research programmes and the present and anticipated requirements of Kenya's agricultural and livestock industries."

MARRIAGES

POTTER—SHACKLETON.—At Christ Church Congregational church, Keighley, Yorks., on July 13, the Reverend Anthony John Potter, Woodridge, Providence Lane, Oakworth, Keighley to Enid Margaret Shackleton, M.P.S., 2 Kenya Mount, Blackhill, Keighley.

DEATHS

ANNETT.—Suddenly, on July 4, Mr. H. O. Annett (export sales manager, ethical pharmaceuticals), William R. Warner & Co., Ltd., aged forty-eight. Mr. Annett joined the international organisation as a medical representative in Rhodesia and South Africa, transferring to the United Kingdom in 1960. After a short time as a medical representative he was promoted regional sales manager of the domestic organisation. In 1962 he assumed responsibility for the sale and distribution of Warner "ethical" preparations in overseas markets, and made many visits to East and West Africa and the Middle East.

BLAIR.—On June 29 Mr. John Duncan Blair, M.P.S.I., Ardofoile Avenue, Ballintemple, Blackrock, Cork, Eire, Mr. Blair qualified in 1910 and was in business at 7 Patrick Street, Cork, for many years, until he had to retire on health grounds some years ago. The pharmacy is still in the possession of his family. A keen golfer, Mr. Blair was a past president and past captain of Lahinch club. He is survived by a son and a grandson.

DUNN.—On June 21, Mr. George Wilson Dunn, 69 Canal Street, Saltcoats, Ayrshire. Mr. Dunn qualified in 1921 and retired from the Register in 1965.

GILLIBRAND.—On July 2, Mr. George Eric Gillibrand, M.P.S., 232B Newchurch Road, Stocksteads, Bacup, Lancs., aged fifty-eight. Mr. Gillibrand qualified in 1933.

HARRIS.—At his home, 52 Whites Lane, Kessingland, Suffolk, on July 1, Mr. Stanley Knighton Harris, M.P.S. Mr. Harris was formerly superinten-

dent of R. D. Silver, Ltd., chemists, Market Place, Kettering, Northants. He was resident for a period at Redgate Hill, Hunstanton, Norfolk.

MATTHEW.—On June 30, Mr. Hector Matthew, M.C., M.P.S., Mydeweke, Stockbridge Road, Weeke, Winchester. Mr. Matthew qualified in 1921 and was formerly in business at 204 Merton Road, Southfields, London, S.W.18. He retired in 1960.

RAE.—One June 8, Mr. Ian Mackenzie Rae, M.P.S., P.O. Box 1568, Bulawayo, Rhodesia. Mr. Rae qualified in 1920.

ROBERTSON.—On June 20, Mr. Thomas Duncan Robertson, M.P.S., 11 Thorleas Gardens, Low Fell, Gateshead, 9. Mr. Robertson qualified in 1922.

TYREMAN.—On June 25, Mr. Alfred Tyreman, M.P.S., 175 Ashburnham Road, Hastings, Sussex. Mr. Tyreman qualified in 1911 and owned a pharmacy for many years at Lincoln and afterwards at Bournemouth.

VENABLES.—On July 5, Mr. Charles Page Venables, M.P.S., Warracree, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex. Mr. Venables qualified in 1921.

INQUESTS

Identification of Tablets

THE exact nature of tablets should be clearly marked on bottles to prevent people getting muddled about them. The Stoke-on-Trent City coroner (Mr. Federic Hails), supported that recommendation at an inquest at Stoke on a seventy-four years old widow who died from a massive overdose of barbiturates. Recording an open verdict on Mrs. Florrie Whieldon, Keelings Drive, Trent Vale, Mr. Hails said: "I have to decide whether this overdose was taken accidentally—but I can only say that it would make things a good deal easier for us to find out when death occurs if the nature of the tablets were on the bottle."

MANUFACTURERS' ACTIVITIES



RETIREMENT CHEQUE: When Jackel & Co., Ltd., Kitty Brewster Estate, Blyth, Northumberland, was revived as an active trading company under the management of Mr. G. R. McConochie in 1954 the original employee was a Mrs. Annie Clarke, to whose hard work and all-round duties much of the company's success is attributed, especially during her first year when she was the sole employee of the company. On recently reaching retirement age Mrs. Clarke was presented with a cheque in reward and recognition for her long service.

NEW PRODUCTS AND PACKS

PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES

For Intramuscular Injection.—Lepetit Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., Dulux House, High Street, Slough, announce the introduction of Rifocin-M for the treatment of severe staphylococcal and other Gram-positive infections; infections of the hepato-biliary tract where high concentrations of Rifocin-M make it effective against both Gram-negative and Gram-positive organisms. Each 3.0 ml ampoule contains Rifamide (rifamycin B diethylamide) sodium salt 150 mgm., lignocaine 10 mgm. at a pH of 7.2. Rifocin-M is intended for intramuscular injection and is stable for two years when stored at 25°C. Pack is a single ampoule.

COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES

"Gold-dusty" Lip Shades.—Dorothy Gray, Ltd., Marshall Road, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, Sussex, have launched six new "Goldburst" lip shades described as "actually dazzled with gold dust." They are "gilt-edged pink," "pink nugget," "pinker's gold" amongst the pink-golds, "golden bronze" and "russet gold" among the yellow-golds and "good as gold" as a white gold.

Fitted Beauty Cases.—Illustrated is a light, medium-priced fitted beauty case for summer use produced by Yardley of London, Ltd., 33 New Bond Street, London, W.1. The Yardley "dazzle bag" is covered in a print in Tricel Cubert design in lime, turquoise,



blue and pink. The square shape accommodates sun-tan oil, paper-back and bikini. Included in the price is a Yardley Slimline compact in "misty beige," an eye-shadow powder in "aquatint," Sweeperoo mascara in "mid-night," and a Suki pearl lipstick in pink.

Cream Nail Enamel.—Woltz Italiana (distributors: Biometica, Ltd., Barnet by-pass, Boreham Wood, Herts) have introduced a super-cream pearly nail enamel claimed to have "a most elegant brilliance." The colour, say the makers, remains the same throughout the enamel (without separation). Application is easy and adherence of the enamel to the nail is "phenomenal." The product is in eight colours from a shallow "tea-rose pink" to an "azalia."

Deodorant Sprays.—Guerlain, Ltd.,

22 Aintree Road, Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex, have launched three new deodorant sprays perfumed with *Chant d'Aromes*, *Mitsouko*, No. 90 or *Habit Rouge* fragrance. The spray is describ-



ed as "not antiperspirant but able to suppress efficiently all smell of perspiration without damage to the skin." In use it causes a sensation of cold, and it may be used immediately after shaving. Pack is a cylindrical glass bottle. Its spray cone covered with a gold and white top.

A Cream for the Neck.—Oryane by Orlane (Jean D'Albret-Orlane: Distributors, Sirex, Ltd., Spirella House, Oxford Circus, London, W.1) is a cream designed to smooth and tighten the skin of the neck. The fresh plants used in its preparation, say the manufacturers, have been chosen for their nourishing and tightening qualities. They are broken down in a fraction of a second into ultralysats yielding "the most concentrated extracts ever used in a cosmetic preparation." The extracts are added to sero-albumin and a fortifying and stimulating embryonic substance and combined with Orlane's own shark-oil base to produce a light fluid cream that is readily absorbed into the skin. The pack is a tube of 2½ oz. in shiny white carton, on which the Orlane roses are embossed in gold.

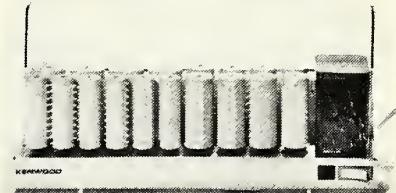
"Super-tanning" Agent for Men.—In the Aramis series of toiletries for men, Estée Lauder Cosmetics, Ltd., 18 Davies Street, London, W.1, have produced four new products, three to prevent sunburn and speed suntan and the fourth for "staying power." Waterproof sun gel is for the swimmer, sailor, deep-set diver or other active water-sportsmen. It is fortified with silicones to form a waterproof shield. Tanning cream guards the skin of the man who spends much time on the golf links or tennis courts; it is a beige cream that is claimed to absorb instantly harmful rays from the sun. Greaseless tanning lotion is clear orange liquid that rubs into the skin and is specially suited to pool swimmers. After-sun rub is a lubricant that "gives a tan staying power." The gel and cream are in 3-oz. tubes, the

lotion and after-sun rub in 6-oz. plastic bottles.

Many New Products.—Revlon International Corporation, 86 Brook Street, London, W.1, have introduced, they claim, the first make-up completely free of oil. Natural Wonder flowing lotion make-up gives a non-powdery, non-masked effect, while for the really oily skin Blotting Powder is available in translucent light and translucent medium shades to match the skin colouring. Four new Sea Frosting shades of lipstick are "sea biscuit" (a silvery beige), "freshwater melon" (coral) "oyster mauve" and "soft shell pink." Five new Flower Shadow shades are cornflower blue, daffodil, meadow green, aqua lily and fresh lilac. Messrs. Revlon have introduced an ingenious answer to the problem of the spectacle-wearer in applying eye make-up, glasses with flip-down lens attachment. The device allows the user to focus one eye properly while making up the other. Attachments are available in mild, medium and strong variants. A reintroduced Revlon product is Ultima II leg complexion make-up.

SUNDRIES

Heated Rollers.—Latest heated rollers on the market are in an eighteen-roller Matchmaker set manufactured by Kenwood, Ltd., and supplied by Palbar & Co., Ltd., 6 Cork Street,



London, W.1. Messrs Palbar are aiming at national distribution. The product is being extensively Press advertised.

A Blanket Safe When Switched On.—Although extra-low-voltage all-night under-blankets have an excellent safety record over many years' service, say David Griffin, Ltd., Holland Way, Blandford, Dorset, that fact has only recently been accepted by the British



Standards Institution. It is now acknowledged by inclusion of that type of blanket in BS 456 A4 under amendment No. 3. The company have secured approval for their Dee Gee ELV all-night under-blanket, which is now in maximum production.

TRADE NOTES

In 10-mil Pack.—Paines & Byrne, Ltd., Pabrym Laboratories, Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex, state that the Smith, Miller & Patch ophthalmic solution Miocarpine SMP 1 per cent. is being supplied in a 10-mil pack from August 1.

Holiday Closing.—The premises of Cuxson, Gerrard & Co., Ltd., Oldbury, Warley, Worcs, will be closed from July 27 for annual holidays, reopening August 12. During that period a skeleton staff will deal with urgent orders and inquiries.

From Wholesalers Soon.—Cernelle (U.K.), Ltd., 260 Station Road, Addlestone, Surrey, state that stocks of Cernitin skin care creams (skin and tissue, all round, day, cleansing and cleansing lotion) will shortly be available from wholesalers. Meanwhile the products should be ordered from Addlestone.

Price Corrected.—J. J. Silber, Ltd., 11 Northburgh Street, London, E.C.1, point out that the price of the Halina Super 8 cine camera, quoted in an announcement elsewhere in this issue, should read £15 6s. 10d. Price of the Halina Simplette 300 camera should read £14 11s. 5d.

Exclusive.—Mr. Alan Randerson, managing director, Pollen Products, Ltd., 841 High Road, Finchley, London, N.12 asks us to point out that the company claims exclusive rights to the registered design incorporating the letters XB when applied to energy foods.

Help for Olympics Appeal.—Inside each special "Olympic" pack for the Slim Twist razor of Gillette Safety Razor Co., Great West Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, is a 2s. token which the purchaser is invited to send direct to the British Olympic Appeals Fund. Each token is being honoured by the company who have guaranteed £5,000—equal to the largest contribution from commerce and industry announced so far—to help cover the expense of items such as high-altitude training, travel and accommodation.

Aim: A National Brand Image.—In a plan to achieve a national brand image and distribution and a dramatic increase in sales, Southern Aerosol Co., Ltd., 9 Westbourne Place, Hove, Sussex, are embarking on a major development programme. A "house" name, Sadler Cosmetics, is being adopted for the company's range of women's cosmetics. It will be used on existing products Impress and Impact hair sprays, Impart hair lustre, Impulse perfume, Impel anti-perspirant and deodorant and Impora body oil—and on a number of new products to be launched this year. A promotional campaign starts in July, with advertisements in the trade Press, point-of-sale material, direct mail, and introductory offers to the trade, initially in London, the South-east and South-coast areas. Sales operations are being extended nationally later in the year. The company has taken on Mr. Brian Best as marketing director and Mr. Frank E. Scrase as sales manager.

Bonus Offers

SCHICK ELECTRIC, LTD., 102 New Bond Street, London, W.1. *Schick men's shavers.* Thirteen invoiced as twelve on direct accounts. *Hair dryers.* Additional 5 per cent. on thirty-six (or more) unit orders, also on direct accounts. Retailers are offered a 10s. per sale bonus on men's shavers (claim forms from the company or salesmen). The £2 company's trade-in offer on shavers ends on July 31. Dealers are advised that old "trade-ins" should be returned to Schick for credit by August 9.

Premium Offers

LENBROOK LABORATORIES, LTD., Thane Road West, Nottingham. Sweetex, Special offer pack: 200 tablets free with each 500 pack.

VITAPOINTE (U.K.) LTD., Loughborough, Leics. Vitapointe cream rinse, hair sprays and conditioner. Pair of nylon stockings in exchange for three vouchers from packs.

Trade Shows

BRONNLEY & CO., LTD., 10 Conduit Street, London, W.1. MANCHESTER, Queens Hotel, July 22-26.

GOYA INTERNATIONAL, LTD., 161 New

Bond Street, London, W.1. MANCHESTER, Hotel Piccadilly, July 22-26.

J. GROSSMITH & SON, LTD., 41 Piccadilly, London, W.1. MANCHESTER, Queens hotel, July 22-26. CARDIFF, Queens hotel, July 22-26.

NORMAN HARTNELL, LTD., 26 Bruton Street, London, W.1. MANCHESTER, Queens hotel, July 22-26. CARDIFF, Queens hotel, July 22-26.

JACKEL & CO., LTD., Kitty Brewster Estate, Blyth, Northumberland. ABERDEEN, Douglas hotel, July 24-26. ELGIN, Gordon Arms hotel, July 22.

LENTHERIC, LTD., 17 Old Bond Street, London, W.1. CARDIFF, Queens hotel, July 22-25. MANCHESTER, Queens hotel, July 22-26.

MORNY, LTD., 201 Regent Street, London, W.1. CARDIFF, Queens hotel, July 22-25. MANCHESTER, Hotel Piccadilly, July 22-25.

M. & R. NORTON, LTD., Adrian Works, 9 Park Hill, London, S.W.4. Cardiff, Royal hotel, July 22-25.

SHULTON (GREAT BRITAIN), LTD., 100 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3. CARDIFF, Queens hotel, July 22-26. MANCHESTER, Piccadilly hotel, July 22-26.

JEAN SORELLE, LTD., 76 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. CARDIFF, Queens hotel, July 22-26. MANCHESTER, Queens hotel, July 22-26.

INFORMATION WANTED

The Editor would appreciate information about:

Hydrex for swimming pools.

PHOTOGRAPHIC NOTES

Chemical Labels Redesigned.—Labels on the packs of chemicals supplied by Johnson of Hendon, Ltd., Hendon Way, London, N.W.4, have been redesigned for clear and easy reading in



the orange-yellow light of a darkroom. Paper developers have an orange surround to the name, which appears light; negative developers a red surround, which appears grey; and fixers are blue, which appear almost black. Photographic solutions that are neither developers or fixers have green labels. The possibility of confusing one with another is thus minimised.

Purchase Tax Scheme Dropped.—Photopia International, Ltd., Newcastle, Staffs, have had their scheme for a notional value reduction for the purposes of purchase tax calculation (see *C. & D.* June 15, p. 536) challenged by the Commissioners of Customs & Excise. The company state that having made "a practical protest about the iniquitous rate of purchase tax on photographic products" they must now withdraw the scheme. New terms and conditions of trading have been issued. Suggested retail prices stay as before. Quantity and special discounts remain unaffected.

Films Relaunched.—The Anscochrome range of colour transparency

films is being relaunched on the British market by G.A.F. (Great Britain), Ltd., 30 Engate Street, London, S.E.13. It comprises Anscochrome 64 daylight, Anscochrome 200 daylight, Anscochrome 500 daylight and Anscochrome T/100 Tungsten and is currently available to "specialist photographic dealers" only. Processing is by G.A.F. Processing Laboratory, P.O. Box 21-123, Coldharbour Lane, London, S.E.5. A home processing kit suitable for all four films continues available.

Cartoon Titles and Film Protection.—A new range of colour cartoon titles have been released by Arrowtabs, Ltd., Granville Mews, Cricklewood Lane, London, N.W.2. The series introduces matching titles. "Holiday Abroad" and "Continental Holiday" have their own matching "end" titles, whilst "Wedding Day" and "The Reception" form a pair. Others in the series include "British Bored of Film Censors present 'Holiday Time,'" "On this suspicious occasion I proudly present my latest epic," "Please don't snore—you'll wake the operator," and "There will now be a pause for change of reels." Also introduced is Protect-a-Print leader for



standard 8 and Super-8 cine films for splicing on to the beginning of the film. Being twice as thick as normal film it is claimed to make threading easier with less likelihood of the film buckling.

A HISTORY OF THE BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE

BRIGHTON 1905
BIRMINGHAM 1906

By E. H. SHIELDS

WHEN the Conference met in Brighton, after an interval of thirty-three years, the mayoral welcome was backed up by especially warm greetings from the medical profession. Dr. Gervis, on behalf of his colleagues hoped that visitors would make the fullest use of Dr. Brighton's prescription:—

R

Aeris Brightonii, quantum sufficit
Misce, secundum artem

Fist Inhalatio Saepissime utendum

For his presidential address, Mr. W. A. H. Naylor had chosen the subject of galenical standardisation, because its underlying principle "and its embodiment in daily practice" was the most important advance in pharmacy for many years. It could only be usefully applied when based on "thorough, systematic, accurate investigation of crude drugs" and successive editions of the *British Pharmacist* bore witness to its development from the simplicities of 1867 to the complexities of 1898. Some contemporary methods were criticised as being too complicated; others were inaccurate and tedious, and research should be directed to their simplification and correction. A very practical exposition led to the conclusion that "pharmacy would continue to be largely what the pharmacist qualifies himself to make it."

Peaceful Take-over

The Executive reported that the work of the Formulary Committee had been taken over quite peacefully by the Pharmaceutical Society, and a new research sub committee would ensure that the work and outlook of the Conference would be kept thoroughly up to date. The general index to the Yearbooks for 1886 to 1903 had been completed and, in yet another effort to arouse interest, forty-three local corresponding secretaries had been appointed.

Early methods of physiological ("bio-chemical") standardisation were described by Dr. W. E. Dixon as "wonderfully accurate" when due precautions were taken to keep conditions constant, and they were specially suitable for drugs in the digitalis group, for ergot, Indian hemp, lobelia, etc., for which no reliable chemical tests were available. The discussion that followed was interesting as showing "audience reaction." The president admitted that hitherto they had not been able to deal adequately with the drugs in question, but to do so seemed to call for a small menagerie. Mr. Lescher had actually seen menageries at various works in the United States and he welcomed the new ideas. Dr. Symes wondered if animal reactions were sufficiently consistent—would not the tests themselves require standardisation? Mr. Rutherford Hill raised the ques-

tion of needless suffering; perhaps there should be a national institution to which preparations could be sent for testing and certification. Mr. Mair pointed out that the new *United States Pharmacopoeia* expressly avoided such tests. Dr. Attfield wondered whether chemists and druggists could ever become bio-chemists, whilst Mr. Umney thought that there would be strong popular prejudice against animal tests. Dr. Dixon welcomed the critics only to demolish their arguments. Apart from the central nervous system all mammalian tissues reacted in precisely the same way; the fact that the U.S.P. did not include the best tests was no good precedent for the compilers of the B.P., leading American physiologists were all in favour of these methods. The tests did entail special training and facilities. They were never intended to replace or displace approved chemical tests.

Another Fascinating Sketch

Chemical standardisation in the new edition of the U.S.P. was critically reviewed by Mr. Maben, and Messrs. Umney and Bennett gave a general welcome to its treatment of essential oils. Mr. Claridge Druce drew another of his fascinating sketches of the local flora, showing that Sussex had the advantages of varying altitudes, wooded regions, alternations of porous and impervious strata, an extensive sea coast—all making for richness and variety in its 1,150 species. In reply to Mr. Rutherford Hill's comment that his only view of the Sussex flora was confined to that from the Brighton express, Mr. Druce said that such a view could be useful; recently during an hour's journey to Roxburgh he had counted 200 species on the railway embankments. Dr. W. H. Martindale contributed a "Further note on Radio-Activity," but much more interest was displayed in commercial concentrated infusions, which had come under the critical eye and nose of the public analyst for Bournemouth, Mr. R. A. Cripps. His main objection was to "misleading and untrue labels which stated that, on dilution, the B.P. infusion was obtained." Nobody defended the commercial article but nearly every chemist in ordinary business made use of it. Mr. E. W. Pollard, of Ryde, described some of his experiences in constructing an amateur laboratory. Finding the necessary room was often a difficulty, he said, but "Space is like time—the energetic man makes it," and he had proceeded to make it in a corner of a bottle store. Typical of his apparatus was a still that cost half a crown and was made from a 56-lb. glycerin tin. It looked crude "but no better water could be produced" and the output was 1 gall. per 30 cu. ft. of gas. His total outlay had been £8 10s. Mr. Pollard did not expect to make a fortune from it, but it



Mr. H. Wippell Gadd



Mr. F. C. Clayton



Mr. C. R. Marshall



Dr. W. Harrison Martindale



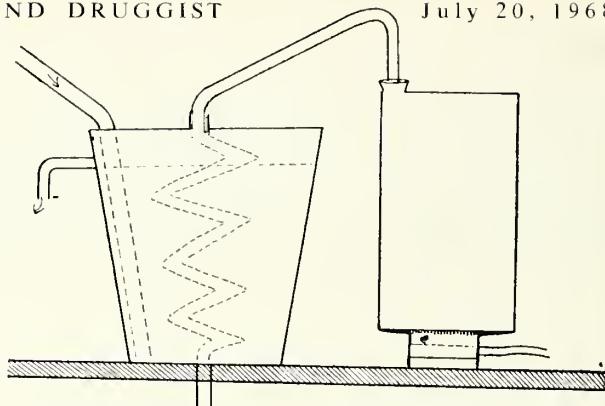
Mr. W. H. Naylor

did help to keep his own brains in order and it provided fair treatment for apprentices.

A "distinguished visitor" was heard to say "Couldn't we come to Brighton every year?", thus paying tribute to a happy, useful Conference, and the excursion to Arundel in perfect summer weather provided a fitting climax. "Busy Bee-hive Birmingham" beckoned, however, in the person of Mr A. W. Gerrard, and it was decided to meet there in 1906, with Mr. Naylor re-elected as president. As an unofficial addendum, about fifteen visitors to the Conference chose an unusual route home by way of Paris. They were led by Mr. Savage of Brighton and, with the friendly connivance of the Paris correspondent of the C. & D., they had an exhilarating week in which instruction, professional encounters and entertainment were agreeably combined.

At "Busy Bee-hive Birmingham"

In due course Birmingham welcomed the Conference with every sign of municipal, academic and medical approval, and Mr. Naylor tactfully used the occasion to advance the claims of pharmacy to more adequate recognition in the youthful University. He ventured to hope that the small nucleus already present would develop into a complete pharmaceutical department. Mr. Claridge Druce, in seconding a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, was glad to note that they were in touch with the powers that be, even though they represented "an antiquated and to some extent a played-out business." Mr. Thomas Barclay followed with some reflections on contemporary pharmacy, illustrating his theme with the example of Joseph Lucas (qualified in 1876, in business for nearly thirty years and yet, in his closing days, a candidate for the Benevolent Fund). By comparison the chairman radiated optimism as he talked of the evaluation of galenicals, a term which allowed a wider sweep than standardisation. Even male fern could be a source of inspiration and satisfaction—"All who have turned their attention to it have had a find that must have gone far to sweeten their labour." Senega, however, was still a challenge; it seemed to be at the height of its reputation whilst they, as pharmacists, were at the depth of their ignorance of its true constitution. Nevertheless, from his own practical experience, Mr. Naylor was convinced that the quality of drugs in general had



A HALF-CROWN STILL: "No laboratory is complete without a still for water," said Mr. E. W. Pollard in his paper on 'Amateur Laboratory Construction', and one that can be made for half-a-crown is shown in the figure. It consists of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -cwt. glycerin tin to which is fitted a cork, covered with tinfoil to prevent organic contamination. A glass is bent and continued to a glass worm, which can be obtained at an apparatus-house. The worm is fixed in a lard or butter bucket, the cold water entering at the bottom by a tube as shown . . . This apparatus looks crude, but produces excellent distilled water."

made signal advances in the previous twenty-five years. Even Mr. Druce must have caught some of the presidential cheerfulness for he described the address as "the embodiment of the practical side of pharmacy—brimful of real facts."

The Executive Committee welcomed 250 new members.



"ONE OF THE KEENEST BOTANISTS IN BRITAIN", Mr. G. Claridge Druce, M.A., F.L.S., collects specimens of the "Flora of Sussex," on which he presented a paper.



Mr. E. W. Pollard



Mr. C. Thompson



Mr. J. C. Umney



AN UNSCHEDULED EXCURSION TO PARIS: Led by Mr. Savage of Brighton, fifteen Conference members "chose an unusual route home by way of Paris. With some of their French hosts they are shown at the British Island Club, Neuilly-sur-Seine. Second from right in middle row is Mr. C. E. Lord (Paris representative of "The Chemist and Druggist"). Among the British pharmacists were Messrs. W. B. Cowie, Edinburgh; R. Brodie, Glasgow; W. J. Gilson, Belfast; R. P. Rees, Dowlais; J. Ford, Kirriemuir; J. Hinton Lake, Exeter; and R. Lindsay, Peebles.

but the Treasurer was, at the moment, £111 in the bad; a small alteration in the financial statement put the position much more clearly than hitherto. There had been a deficit on the index to the Year-books but, as a result of a special appeal, that particular item had been practically cancelled. The forthcoming Year-book would be slimmer than usual, owing to various economy measures—cheeseparing that was not altogether popular. Dr. Symes urged members to help the treasurer by sending an extra half-crown each year; other speakers went better still by proposing, and carrying by seventy-five votes to five, a recommendation to the Executive that the subscription should be raised to 10s. 6d.

Messrs. Farr and Wright were again to the fore with papers on strychnine and nux vomica preparations. They did not like the official liquid extract and suggested a standardised, dry one, adjusted to 5 per cent. strychnine content, with either sugar of milk or powdered nux vomica. A keen discussion went far to prove the author's contention that it was the most frequently prescribed of all official drugs. Mr. Dott did not approve of the powdered drug as diluent. Mr. Alcock advised the use of carbon tetrachloride instead of paraffin wax to extract the fat. And Mr. Rutherford Hill, taking a long jump forward, argued that, if strychnine was the only important ingredient, why not use it as such and save a lot of trouble and expense? Others were not so sure, and even Mr. Wright himself was awaiting news of brucine from his pharmacological friend, Dr. W. E. Dixon.

Regional Geology

Mr. John Humphreys, F.L.S., a lecturer on dentistry (not to be confused with the pharmaceutical John Humphrey), became almost lyrical when describing a much earlier visitor to Birmingham. He took his audience back a long, long way to that moment in geological time when the Arenig glacier, in its eastward progress from the Welsh mountains, brought all sorts of things with it, coal, quartz, Llandovery rocks—all mixed together, like plums in a pudding.

polished and scratched and scored, telling most eloquently the story of England's submergence under a great ice cap . . . Probably no place in the country exhibits a more diversified geological aspect." Worcestershire, shaped like a vine leaf, with the Severn as mid-rib and the Avon and Teme as lateral veins, was once a vast forest and the rivers were the principal highways for communication between hamlet and hamlet. Yet another leap and we learn of increasing cultivation, enclosure, reclamation, with mounting land values. A scheme in the Lickey Hills in 1800 concerned about 3,000 acres at £8 an acre—a century later there are building sites at £300—desirable, well-established sites, for these hills are the stumps of "probably one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, compared to which the Alps and Himalayas are mushrooms of yesterday."

Defects in *Pharmacopoeia and its Use*

The public analyst of Birmingham introduced matters of more immediate concern by reviewing some of the drugs that had passed through his office. Mr. Liverseege had had the inestimable advantage of a pharmaceutical training and he gave his fellow members an admirably frank and detailed survey of his methods. The audience responded with equally frank comments on the mysterious ways of other public analysts and the misuse of the B.P. as a standard, points which the author carefully avoided in his otherwise helpful reply to more specific queries. Mr. Thomas Tyrer thought that the B.P. authorities should have much more regard for the problems of the manufacturing chemist. "No allowance was made for commercial conditions—for which possibly compilers of pharmacopoeias care little." Taking the case of ammoniated mercury—it had to be perfectly white and free from chloride; in practice one could make it chloride-free only by continued washings, which left it yellowish, unsightly and unsaleable. Members not only approved in principle but proceeded to elect Mr. Tyrer as president for 1907 at Manchester.

NEW BOOKS

New Linear Polymers

H. LEE, D. STOFFEY and K. NEVILLE, *McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd.*, McGraw-Hill House, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berks. 9 x 6 in. Pp. vii + 374. 163s. 6d.

An introduction to the chemistry and technology of ten types of new commercial plastic materials that first became available in the mid-1960's. The compounds are resins or polymers with a linear structure and no cross-linking. They are: phenoxy resins, aromatic polysulphones, poly-*p*-xylylenes, polyphenylene oxides, polyamides, polycyamides, polyamide-imides, polyester-imides, polyimides and polybenzimidazoles. The molecular structures of fifty-two commercially available polymers are outlined in tabular form and a final chapter deals with products of research that are unlikely to become commercially viable.

Buyers' Views on Salesmen

Tack Research, Ltd., Tack House, Longmore Street, London, S.W.1. 11½ x 8½ in. Pp. 72. 84s.

The results gleaned from questionnaires returned by 1,040 buyers (including retailers, doctors and purchasing officers) in September, 1967, recorded in this survey, give little comfort to the sales manager who picks his salesmen for their "personality"—because it gives a low rating to that desirable attribute. It was also a misconception that buyers generally like to be taken out to lunch—or even to shake hands with visiting representatives, let alone hear their "funny" stories. Buyers expected the salesman above all to have a thorough knowledge of his product, and the survey, unfortunately showed that more than one-third of buyers rated salesmen's product knowledge only "fair," "inadequate" or "poor." Visits to introduce a successor or new man on the territory were regarded as a desirable courtesy but the presence of an area manager or head office executive was variously interpreted. "The lost art of 'closing a

sale'" is cited by a director of a wholesale chemist as a personal quality he would like in a salesman, yet a buyer for wholesale chemists dislikes most "salesmen who do not listen to our point of view and assume that they know best how we should buy." A doctor's dislike is the "type who attempts to discredit rival products."

Introduction to Organic Chemistry

C. H. DE PUY and K. U. RHINEHART, JR., *John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.*, Baffins Lane, Chichester, Sussex. 9½ x 6½ in. Pp. xii + 392. 68s.

In this outline of modern organic chemistry (defined as being the subject "as understood by research workers in the field"), stress is laid on structural considerations and their relation to biology. Topics covered include atomic and molecular orbitals and elementary conformational analysis, geometrical isomerism, cyclic saturated hydrocarbons and petroleum; free-radical addition and polymerisations; configurational isomerism (in connection with organic halides). Carbohydrates, lipids, proteins and nucleic acids and their conversion into energy are discussed in relation to biochemical reactions. Metabolism and biosynthesis are also dealt with. Final chapter covers colours and dyes. An appendix of forty-eight questions introduces the student to IUPAC nomenclature.

Particle Size Analysis

Society for Analytical Chemistry, 9 Savile Row, London, W.1. 9½ x 6½ in. Pp. viii + 368. 147s. + 5s. post and packing.

A RECORD of the proceedings at a symposium on particle size analysis held by the Society of Analytical Chemistry in Loughborough in 1966. Twenty-seven papers, selected for their scientific originality, were delivered covering manual counting methods, automatic counting methods, sedimentation and centrifugal sedimentation methods, surface area measurement, applications and general topics.

MEDICAL RESEARCH AT MILL HILL

Variable-focus spectacles among research projects shown to the Press

PROTOTYPE adjustable-focus spectacles that have been used successfully by their inventor (Dr. B. M. Wright) for over four months were demonstrated to the Press at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7, on July 3. The usefulness of such spectacles would be to anyone doing fine work or finding small print difficult to read because their eyes were losing the power to focus. "Reading glasses" or bi- or trifocals, which must currently be resorted to, have each some disadvantages. At first encounter the new spectacles are no different from existing ones, but in the optical centre of each lens is a circular cell of 25 mm. diameter containing fluid which, when pressurised, causes a change in the curvature of the rear lens surface, so altering the focus. The lenses consist of three layers, laminated together by a similar technique to that used for shatter-proof windscreens. Front layer is (apart from being less curved than usual at the rear surface) a conventional spectacle lens. It may have parallel curvature front and back for persons with normal sight, or dissimilar curvatures to give the necessary correction in abnormal sight. Middle layer, which is polyvinyl butyral (a plastic that adheres to glass), is pierced by a circular hole. A duct joins the cavity to the edge of the lens and thence to a volume-adjusting device in the form of a slide fitted into the side frame. Rear layer of the compound lens is of thin glass (in fact a coverslip) whose curvature can be changed by the pressure of the fluid in the cavity. The fluid used is a saturated aqueous solution of calcium bromide with glycerol, chosen to have a refractive index close to that of glass, making the cell and its duct almost invisible. Under an agreement with the National Research Development Corporation, Keeler Optical Products, Ltd., 21 Marylebone Lane, London, W.1, are currently producing a batch of 100 of the spectacles. Should the trials prove successful the spectacles are not expected, when made by mass-production methods, to cost much more than conventional spectacles.

Self-priming pump

The engineering division of the Institute was demonstrating a novel form of fluid pump, in which two adjacent points on a flexible tube, connected to a liquid reservoir, are subjected to vibrations of the same frequency but differing in phase. Depending on the amplitudes and the phase difference, the system gives positive pumping of the liquid and may be self-priming (that is, it may also pump air). There are no valves and the tube need not necessarily be occluded at any time during the cycle. A model operating at 100 cycles per sec., using electromagnetic vibrators driven from the mains, can produce pressures of up to 20 lb. per sq. in. and flow rates of 60 mils per min.

The division of physiology and pharmacology of the Institute has been investigating the way in which neurones

in the cerebral cortex respond to patterns of light falling upon the eyes. In anaesthetised animals the reactions of individual neurones have been studied by driving close to a single cell the tip of a micropipette. Each time the cell "fires" as a result of visual stimulus from the eye the impulses are recorded. The object seen by the eye has to be "jiggled"; it is found, otherwise it ceases to stimulate a reaction within a few seconds (in the conscious animal eye movements accomplish the same thing). The cells can be shown to be in a state of constant activity, but when a pattern is shown, such as a light-dark borders whose outlines provide the stimulus to some form of Computerising the responses shows the cell to be more likely to "fire" immediately after the pattern is moved, while each individual cell is most responsive to a line moving across the

field in a particular direction. The indication so far is that the brain "likes" light-dark borders whose outlines provide the stimulus to some form of action by the body. The information now being obtained is expected to have applications eventually in the treatment of strabismus.

A further study has been of the posterior pituitary hormones, oxytocin and vasopressin. The two have long been said to be released together, an assumption prompted partly by the difficulty of separating and identifying the two hormones (there is some overlap of actions). Now, working with analogues of oxytocin made by chemists in Prague, Dr. G. W. Bisset and colleagues have been able to antagonise the action of oxytocin. Analysis of the hormones in the blood during stimulation, using that antagonism, has shown a specificity of stimuli. In the rabbit, for example, suckling releases oxytocin only; haemorrhage or carotid artery occlusion, vasopressin.

Correspondence

Letters when received must bear the name for publication. The Editor does not hold

Cause and Effect

SIR.—2s. 6d. charge imposed June 10. Result, dispensing down by 25 per cent throughout the country. Cheers from the Ministry! Why not increase the charge to 5s.—in three months, then there will be a 50 per cent. reduction in numbers dispensed. Then, after say six months, increase the charge to 10s.—and dispensing would be finished. After all, we can then sell Dippity-Do and Tweeny Twink for our living, for which (thank heaven) we shall not have to become university graduates.

C. H. PATRICK,
Twyford, Berks

Channel Islands Pharmacy

SIR.—I was very interested to read the comments of Mr. Donald Dodds on my article on Jersey in the "From Apothecary to Pharmacist" series. His personal observations make a useful addition to the article. I am glad to know that my information (which came from a pharmacist in Jersey) that pharmacy reached a low ebb during the German occupation is not correct. I have read with admiration the exploits of the people of the Channel Islands during that trying time and I am sure that pharmacists played a full and essential part both as professional people and as citizens.

T. D. WHITTET,
Harpden, Herts

What Action?

SIR.—With reference to the letters by Messrs. Thewlis and Vaughan (C. & D., July 6, p. 11) regarding the difficulties appertaining to the exemption scheme, I note they ask for strong action without defining what this strong action should be. I note also the statement of the Central N.H.S. (Chemist Contractors) Committee that they are actively pressing for: 1. A complete revision of the back of the form; 2. Acceptance in the majority of cases of

and address of the sender, not necessarily himself responsible for the views expressed.

a signature only; 3. Increased payment to compensate for the additional work involved. Perhaps Messrs. Thewlis and Vaughan would let us know what positive action their group would pursue. That is apart from that already taken by the "Central Chemist Contractors Committee." Gentlemen, it is easy to talk from the sidelines and reiterate the problems involved. It is more difficult to suggest a remedy. J. M. FARR,
Cleaton, co. Durham

Ban the Lot?

SIR.—When I was a lad my favourite music hall comedian was the late Frank Randle. In his sketch, "The Old Hiker" he told the audience that he was eighty-two years old and that when he surveyed the delectable and curvaceous young females he wished that he was eighty-one again. If the *News of the World* can persuade many of its readers that procaine capsules might well have a rejuvenating effect, that would have made "The Old Hiker" a very happy man. Why should Mr. Hayhurst (C. & D., July 6, p. 11) imply that the Government will take a dim view, not of the manufacturer or of the newspaper, but of the retail chemist, who merely supplies what the customer asks for? For if this particular panacea does not meet with Mr. Hayhurst's approval (and I would be the last person to argue with him on the point) there must be scores of "patent" medicines on our shelves, hardly a one of which could be described as *comme il faut* in all its aspects. The simple answer to the problem is "Ban the lot" (or, as second best, ban all advertising).

RAYMOND HUTCHINSON
London, S.E.7

Appreciated

SIR.—Thank you for the binder. It will be very useful. The June quarterly will have saved us pounds with its up-to-date prices.—J.H.S.



C&D

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

For Retailer, Wholesaler and Manufacturer

ESTABLISHED 1859

Published weekly at
28 Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C.2
TELEPHONE: 01-353 6565

Giro and Clearing-house

LATER this year the Post Office's national giro will come into operation at its new centre at Bootle. For many, the new system will speed up the transmission of money and reduce its cost.

Basically, the giro is a national current-account banking service, making use of the 23,000 or so post offices throughout the country at which money can be paid in or withdrawn. The aim is a highly mechanised centre to process all instructions on the day they are received, so that resulting new statements of account and supporting documents can be dispatched on the same day.

Any business or individual over the age of sixteen will be able to open an account on placing a minimum deposit of £5. There are expected to be, within the first two years of operation, at least 1,250,000 account holders. Although the giro should have certain advantages over the banks so far as the transmission of money is concerned (though the banks have improved their services since they heard of the competition), overdrafts will not be allowed with giro accounts.

The giro has been designed mainly for transferring money from one account holder to another, and the cost of doing so will be negligible. It will also be possible for a non-account holder to pay money to an account-holder and *vice versa*. A charge of ninepence will be made for that service.

Settling an account from another account holder can save the time and expense of writing a cheque and posting it. All that will be necessary will be to complete a form giving the number of the account to be credited and the sum to be transferred (the back of the form may be used for writing any message about the payment). For that procedure no postage will have to be paid, the only charge being the cost of the forms—expected to be not more than 7s. 6d. for fifty.

Once the giro is in its stride, it will publish directories of account-holders, giving their names, addresses and account numbers, though any account holder will be able to ask for his name not to be included in the directory, in the same way that telephone subscribers can be “ex directory.”

In addition to providing a cheap and easy method for settling straightforward accounts, the giro will be operating an automatic debit transfer service, thus offering a good way of settling fairly frequent accounts where the amount varies and a standing order is not possible. Any company using the service must first obtain the agreement of those with accounts to settle to have their payments debited automatically as they fall

due. The procedure is, on an agreed date after the company has sent out its normal accounts, to send to the giro centre details of the sums to be collected from the accounts of all those who owe money.

Although it may look as though the payer has no control over the situation, queries may in fact be raised after receipt of the account and before the collection is made. The company making the collection has to accept full responsibility if a payer claims that a debit was made without authority.

Excellent facilities of giro type have long been available to members of the National Pharmaceutical Union through its clearing-house system. Those who have used it are loud in its praise and vouch for the substantial saving it makes possible in their operating costs. Indeed the wonder is that any members remain outside the scheme. The remainder—the vast majority—who do use it will probably find little in the Post Office giro scheme to seduce their allegiance. For non-members of the N.P.U. the giro could have advantages and is worth a closer look.

ON THE SIDELINES

★ DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY ★

FROM a small Darmstadt pharmacy to large-scale manufacture of pharmaceuticals in the United States there developed the Merck Co., which this year has two anniversaries calling for mention. Darmstadt, “capital of Hesse and noted for chemicals and beer” runs the usual reference in guide-books. In the city 300 years ago was opened the first Merck druggist's shop “At the Sign of the Angel,” a business that was to remain in the family for three centuries. More significant was the founding of a factory for E. Merck which became Germany's largest source of fine chemicals and alkaloids. Just 150 years ago was set up a small American centre for the Merck concern, though it needed George Merck later to partner Theodore Weicker before the first small-scale business expanded to become eventually Merck & Co., New York. George Merck, together with organic chemists from Great Britain, among them Nicholson, De La Rue, Abel and Mansfield, were a brilliant group of research students trained by Professor A. W. Hofmann, who founded a British school before returning to Germany a century ago. At first drugs and chemicals were imported to New York from Darmstadt. Later Merck set up an American factory to manufacture independently and progress in the study of alkaloids in the laboratory soon brought a corresponding production of pure morphine, codeine and cocaine. Under the influence of Hofmann and Pierre Jean Robiquet (apothecary and professor at the Paris *École Supérieure de Pharmacie*, who was eminent in alkaloid research, working independently of those other famous pharmacists Pelletier and Caventou), the Merck business scored in large-scale application of research. From the Merck building, prominent in New York city, went the expansion on to a 150-acre site, with branches at St. Louis and in Canada. Also beneficial was the union with Rosen-garten, a manufacturer who had taken over the business of two Swiss immigrants handicapped only by their lack of facility in the English language. Among products in which Merck specialised were chloral hydrate (first used as a hypnotic 100 years ago), iodine, bismuth salts, acetanilide, salicylates and then alkaloids, all before photo chemicals and disinfectants were added to the list. Vitamins were added to the tally when the company's research chemists effected their syntheses. Sulphonamides, penicillin (production pioneered during the 1939-45 war) and later streptomycin increased the range. Fellowships and grants to universities added to the world-wide renown of the Merck name. — M. SCHOFIELD.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

DISAPPOINTMENT at the fact that the recommendations of *Comhairle na Nimheanna* (the Poisons Board) had not yet been implemented was expressed at the monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in Dublin on July 9 after a letter from the National Drugs Advisory Board concerning the use of bronchodilators in aerosol form had been read.

The letter, dated June 25, stated that in reply to the N.D.A.B.'s recommendation that sympathetic and sympathomimetic agents when used as bronchodilators in aerosols, should be made available only on prescription, the Department of Health had said that would be borne in mind in making regulations under section 14 of the Poisons Act, 1961. The Minister had indicated that in addition to the control measures recommended by the Advisory Board, he considered that a verbal warning by retail chemists when selling aerosols containing such drugs would provide a useful safeguard and the Board might consider making a recommendation on those lines to the Society.

The letter added that the Society would no doubt be aware that the Board had agreed with the manufacturers that adequate cautionary notices would be included in the labels in future.

MR. M. F. WALSH considered that a statement along the lines of the Board's letter should be issued to members. Until cautionary notices appeared on the labels, pharmacists should exercise caution and should advise patients of the dangers involved in using such bronchodilators.

MR. J. P. O'DONNELL considered that much of the trouble resulted from the fact that the recommendations of *Comhairle na Nimheanna*, made in 1964, had not yet been acted upon. It should be made clear that pharmacists were in no way responsible for a recent fatality caused by the use of bronchodilators.

MR. R. J. POWER (who presided in the absence of the president and vice-president) agreed that while awaiting the implementation of section 14 of the Poisons Act they should recommend to members that verbal warnings be given to patients using the appliances. A similar warning should be issued in respect of atomisers. In replying to the Board's letter they should emphasise their concern about the delay in implementing the Poisons Act.

MR. WALSH considered that a special memorandum should be sent to each member.

Opposing the suggestions MR. O'DONNELL said that it might imply that pharmacists had been careless — that was completely wrong. "We want to refute any such suggestion. Whenever a fatality occurs, the inference is that the chemists were careless but . . . if everybody else handling these appliances were as careful there would be fewer fatalities." MR. POWER said that as manufacturers were now incorporating a slip warning of the dangers in using these articles he thought that would meet the position.

Galway Drug Scheme

The registrar (MR. J. G. COLEMAN) read a report from the *Connaught Tribune* of July 5 (see p. 48) in which the Galway county manager (Mr. A. A. Sharkey) was quoted as saying that chemists had refused to operate a scheme for the distribution of drugs and medicines for medical card holders and "hardship" cases attending private doctors in county Galway. MR. COLEMAN said that so far as he was aware that statement was misleading. He had been given to understand that the pharmacists had refused to operate a modification of the scheme suggested by the manager (see *C. & D.*, June 29, p. 590).

MR. H. P. CORRIGAN suggested the Council notify the Irish Medical Association of the proposed arrangement.

THE REGISTRAR recalled that he had already written to

the secretary of the county council but he had received no reply. He had been in communication with Miss Cunniffe who had stated that local pharmacists would be satisfied with nothing less than the scheme now operating in county Donegal. The secretary of the Irish Drug Association had informed him that Mr. Kilgarrif had called a special meeting to consider the matter but the attendance had been sparse. It was decided that Mr. Coleman should endeavour to ascertain the real position.

MR. T. J. HARTY referred to the free insulin scheme for diabetics and said that it was not correct, as had been stated at a recent Council meeting, that dispensary patients could obtain their insulin requirements at community pharmacies. He had evidence that medical card holders must get their requirements from dispensaries.

MR. F. LOUGHMAN pointed out that such patients were supplied by community pharmacies in Clonmel. MR. R. J. POWER said that if a dispensary patient applied for the necessary card he would be given it but if he mentioned that he was attending a dispensary he would probably be asked to get his supplies there.

Hours of Trading

THE REGISTRAR read a letter from the secretary of the I.D.A. stating that community pharmacies, through their local associations, had indicated that they were against amending the 1938 Hours of Trading Act to allow longer hours of opening. In the circumstances they did not consider a rota system necessary. The Department had sought the views of I.D.A. members on the matter.

MR. WALSH pointed out that pharmacists were not traders in the accepted sense and the best way they could show that would be by indicating that they were prepared to give a reasonable service to the public. He would like the matter to be reviewed by pharmacists as a whole. In certain towns the rota system worked to the advantage of both public and pharmacists. If pharmacists should be asked to work on a fee for service basis they would be expected to provide a reasonable service.

THE CHAIRMAN recalled that the matter had come before the Council in January (see *C. & D.*, January 27, p. 82) when the view had been expressed that there did not appear to be any great demand for an increase in hours, community pharmacists were serving only 70 per cent. of the population. In Northern Ireland, where the entire community was being catered for, community pharmacies were open for only one or one-and-a-half hours longer each week than in the Republic — and then they were granted extra payment for rota service.

It was extraordinary, Mr. Power continued, that it should be the Department of Industry and Commerce who had asked pharmacists to open longer. If it were thought so important he would have expected it to have come from the Department of Health. He might then have been disposed to a more favourable view, but because of the anomaly he opposed any alteration.

Pharmacists were giving an adequate service under the existing arrangement said MR. HARTY. He had frequently been asked to dispense a prescription at 2 or 3 a.m. "We are asking the State to recognise us as the only dispensers of medicines." No action was taken.

Arising out of the Law Committee report, it was agreed that proceedings be instituted against members, licentiates, assistants and registered druggists for the recovery of fees due for two years and longer. The registrar had prepared a list of defaulters each of whom had been notified on fourteen occasions and given a final warning by registered post.

It was agreed that officers of the Society should meet members of the Association of Hospital and Public Phar-

macists with a view to establishing a uniform system for the control of Dangerous Drugs and other controlled preparations following the Government's proposal to establish a new regional hospital area for the country.

THE REGISTRAR stated that Mr. J. P. McCaul, M.P.S.I., Dublin, had asked if pharmacy would organise a special fund to help the people of Biafra. Members pointed out that pharmacists had already contributed to the campaign. It was agreed that if any donations were forwarded to the Society they would be handed over to the appropriate organisations.

The Society's inspector (MR. P. CUMMINS) reported that some pharmacists had become careless in observing certain aspects of the Control of Sales Regulations, 1966. THE CHAIRMAN said the only alternative to prosecuting was to call such members before the Society and advise or admonish them to bring home to them that the Society was in earnest about having the Regulations strictly observed.

MR. WALSH hoped that when the disciplinary committee was established, and a code of conduct enacted, they would have the power to call such pharmacists before the Society. THE REGISTRAR said that page XXXVII of the appendix to the Society's Calendar (special notices) spelled out exactly what pharmacists were required to do.

MR. POWER attributed the deterioration mainly to the failure of the Department to implement the 1961 Poisons Act. That had a frustrating effect and some pharmacists were inclined to the attitude that if the Department did not appear to be all that concerned about poison restrictions they should not be unduly concerned either.

Veterinary Preparations

He said he felt there was laxity with veterinary preparations. Much greater control over their distribution must be exercised and a special check kept on poisons registers to see that the various "sulpha" drugs were fully entered. A joint recommendation that the controls should provide for the signatures of all purchasers had already been submitted by the Council and the Veterinary Association to the Department. That would make controls a reality.

MR. H. P. CORRIGAN said that if the Government acceded to the joint request that ordinary traders should not be allowed to sell veterinary preparations and if pharmacists obtained the signatures of all purchasers, the necessary control could be effected.

MR. POWER was convinced that the sale of sulphonamides was "very large;" consequently the average poisons register should contain a large number of signatures.

MR. HARTY said those drugs were being sold to creameries and co-operatives. It was harsh that the pharmacist had to impose restraints while being aware of what was going on around him. MR. POWER accepted that it was frustrating but Council must also bear in mind that a pharmacist who supplied scheduled preparations for re-sale was in fact encouraging traders to break the law.

The breaches brought to the Council's notice had been dealt with said Mr. Power. The regulations must equally apply to pharmacists improperly engaging in distribution of preparations from vans. The Council did not want the creation of unnecessary restrictions but they must enforce safeguards in the interests of pharmacists and the public.

MR. LOUGHMAN said they had received an assurance from the previous Minister for Health that the *Comhairle na Nimheanna* regulations would be implemented eighteen months after he had received them. Four years had now elapsed and nothing had been done. That delay had been largely responsible for the Council's difficulties.

THE REGISTRAR stated that he had written to Constant Chemicals, Ltd., Chapelizod, stating that the Society's inspector had reported that he had recently purchased a tin of C.S.R. from a Co-operative store. "The tin bore your

label, giving your name and address and the formula of the product. I am directed by the Law Committee to inform you that you are transgressing the Poisons Act, 1870, by failing to label your product 'Poison'."

Mr. T. W. Wardell had replied on behalf of the company stating his annoyance that any Constant brand product should be on the shelves of a Co-operative store. It had always been the company's policy to confine its products to the profession. He had been unaware that the company was infringing the Poisons Act, 1870, and had taken steps to modify the label. It was decided to take no further action.

Merger of Colleges

Eight of Waterford's eighteen pharmacies have closed in recent years, Mr. Cummins reported. It was decided, subject to the opinion of the law adviser, to institute proceedings against a number of pharmacists and traders for breaches of the Poisons and Pharmacy Acts. THE REGISTRAR reported that the Government's recent announcement (see p. 46) concerning the merger of Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin had come as a surprise to pharmacists as it envisaged pharmacy going to Trinity whereas negotiations had been proceeding between U.C.D. and the Society on the basis that the College of Pharmacy would be integrated to Belfield. The U.C.D. authorities were doubtless equally surprised at the announcement. An emergency meeting of the authorities, to which Professor Timoney had been invited, was being held to discuss the position.

MR. CORRIGAN said that the pharmacy faculty had always been with science—not medicine—and he would prefer it to stay with U.C.D. MR. O'DONNELL said that a Minister for Education had endorsed pharmacy going in with science, which faculty would be in U.C.D. If necessary the Council should state a preference for pharmacy remaining with science.

DR. W. E. BOLES said that while Trinity was more accessible than Belfield, it was in line with University thinking in the English-speaking world that pharmacy should be with the science faculty. MR. O'DONNELL pointed out that while Trinity was central for the city hospitals that did not concern pharmacy. There was more building space at Belfield. It was agreed to advise the president of U.C.D. of the Council's views.

THE REGISTRAR reported that of the thirty-four students who sat the Second Science (Pharmacy) examination, eleven had passed.

Sympathy was voted to the secretary of the I.D.A. (Mr. B. R. Smith) on the recent death of his mother and with the relatives of John Duncan Blair, Cork, a former Council member.

The following changes of address were noted: Mrs. Anne B. P. Dolan, L.P.S.I., to 187 Caherdavin Park, Limerick; Mrs. Kathleen Sarsfield, M.P.S.I., to Ramelton, co. Donegal; Mrs. Bridget Stokes, L.P.S.I., to White Walls, Nenagh; W. M. Dolan, M.P.S.I., to 187 Caherdavin Park, Limerick; P. G. Flynn, M.P.S.I., to 31 Lime Trees Road, Maryborough Estate, Douglas, Cork; J. P. Hennigan, L.P.S.I., to Kennel Hill, Mallow, co. Cork; S. Irwin, M.P.S.I., to Castlebalyney, co. Monaghan; Dr. O. Leung, L.P.S.I., to Hong Ning Road, Kwung Tong, Hong Kong; L. K. Moloney, L.P.S.I., to 33 Allen Park Road, St. Irlorgan, co. Dublin; F. J. Murray, M.P.S.I., to 22 Leopardstown Grove, Blackrock, co. Dublin; Aileen P. McHale, Asst., to 94 Woodbine Park, Raheny, Dublin, 5.

Linda Anne Murphy, 83 Gerald Griffin Street, Cork, was granted preliminary registration in the Pharmaceutical Assistants' Preliminary Register.

The licence certificate of Timothy M. O'Malley, 22 St. Joseph's Drive, Montenotte, Cork, was signed and sealed. Hugh P. Curley, L.P.S.I., Main Street, Ballyhaunis, co. Mayo, was nominated for membership. The following were elected to membership: C. J. Clarkin, L.P.S.I., 16 Farnlea Grove, Model Farm Road, Cork; Mary A. McGill, L.P.S.I., 9 Blackheath Gardens, Clontarf, Dublin, 3; B. F. Miney, L.P.S.I., 7602 Parkline Drive, Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A.; Oona J. Molloy, L.P.S.I., St.

Gerard's, Strandhill Road, Sligo and Bridget E. Sheane, L.P.S.I., Foxrock, co. Dublin. The death of J. Duncan Blair, M.P.S.I., was reported.

Members present were: Dr. W. E. Boles and Messrs. P. M. Browne; H. P. Corrigan; T. J. Harty; D. J. Kennelly; F. Loughman; J. B. Murphy; J. P. O'Donnell; G. C. O'Neill; T. B. O'Sullivan; M. Power; R. J. Semple and M. F. Walsh.

Grants totalling £260 (to cover July and August) were passed at a meeting of the Benevolent Fund which followed. On the motion of MR. R. J. POWER the Society's thanks were conveyed to the Benevolent Fund Dance Committee for their contribution of £550.

In a letter forwarding the contribution Mr. Kevin Banks stated that the sum was smaller than usual but the campaign of the fund-raising committee had now, and would in future, result in a smaller number of subscriptions to the Dance Committee. "However, the combined efforts of both committees should in the future show a substantial increase in the annual contributions to the Fund," he added.

Paying tribute to the committee, MR. POWER said they were all aware of the amount of hard work each member had put into organising the function. MR. CORRIGAN seconded the tribute.

National Pharmaceutical Union EXECUTIVE CONSIDERS EFFECTS OF MEDICINES BILL

ALTHOUGH the Medicines Bill would have no immediate beneficial effect on the general practice of pharmacy, there would be long-term gains, the National Pharmaceutical Union Executive Committee agreed at its meeting on June 24 and 25. It had been established that medicines were not items of general merchandise and, with the exceptions provided for in the general sale list, that they should be available only from pharmacies. The general purposes committee reported agreement that although the Pharmaceutical Society would be making representations for some amendments, care should be taken to avoid any frittering away of points included to the advantage of pharmacy.

In connection with resale price maintenance on medicines, selected owners of pharmacies that had closed or were effectively unsaleable would be asked about their views on the effects of the abolition of r.p.m., whether they would be prepared to disclose their trading accounts and also, if called upon, would be willing to give evidence. Possible effects of the "Dickson judgement" were examined and it was agreed that the formulation of advice to members should await the outcome of meetings with the Pharmaceutical Society. Further legal opinions on the new situation were being sought.

It had been noted that some twenty retail pharmacies selected by the department of applied economics, Cambridge University, had been approached in connection with its inquiry into the effects of selective employment tax. A member had since expressed the view that the information called for was so highly confidential and informative that he had doubts about supplying such details to any outside body.

Proprietary Medicines Margins

During the discussion of the reference to the Prices and Incomes Board on proprietary medicines margins, the secretary (MR. J. WRIGHT) reported that the Board of Trade had apologised for the shortness of time for consideration of the draft reference. He also reported that during the week commencing June 10 (the date of the re-introduction of prescription charges) members had received telephone calls from representatives of the Board requesting interviews within the week. There had been no consultation on the members to be approached and the

method and timing of the approaches were considered to be open to objection. A question had been put down to the Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity (see *C. & D.* June 29, p. 581). The Committee then considered data prepared in the office about movement in recent years in the percentage gross margins on proprietary medicines.

The finance committee was reported to have discussed the future of the business purchase and guarantee fund to see how it might be developed to meet the probable requirements of the 1970s. The committee had considered a request for funds from the chairman of the committee advising on the selection of the tenant for the Runcorn New Town pharmacy (see *C. & D.* June 29, p. 593). It had concluded that provision of funds for the purpose could not properly be made from the business purchase and guarantee fund. Nevertheless, the Executive Committee took the view that the request could be looked at again should financial help, in the event, really be needed to support the experiment.

Autumn Area Meeting

The report of the business services committee confirmed that the autumn area meeting would be held in Torquay on October 27. The speakers would be Messrs. C. Jacobs (chairman, Executive Committee), J. O. Bond (chairman, N.P.U. Holdings, Ltd.) and G. T. M. David (chairman, Central N.H.S. Committee). Final arrangements for the management seminar being held in Birmingham were agreed and local opinion would be canvassed as to preferences for October 2 or 9. Liaison had been established with a college offering management studies in its pharmacy degree course under the Council for National Academic Awards with a view to collaboration in the production of lectures on management.

MR. E. J. DOWNING (secretary, Pharmacy Assistants Training Board) reported that the programme for the introduction of the Board's scheme for training and examining dispensing technicians was proceeding well and that it was possible that some colleges might be in a position to offer courses by September. Mr. Downing also reported that in anticipation of the acceptance of the scheme by the City and Guilds of London, he had approached all colleges known to be interested in the training of pharmacy

technicians seeking comments on the proposals and arranging meetings, where appropriate, to ensure that full advantage was taken of the new examination so soon as possible.

Decimalisation

It was reported that a further meeting of the decimalisation subcommittee of the Retail Alliance, of which the N.P.U. was a member, had again considered the problems posed by decimalisation. The N.P.U. had agreed that consideration should be given to the production of a booklet for use by staff on the "programmed learning" principle. Further consideration had been given to the proposed series of meetings on decimalisation. An entrance fee of 10s. would assist with the hire of a large hall and with the issue of literature and training aids.

Particulars of a "do-it-yourself" conversion scheme for re-labelling the keys of cash registers was examined and it was agreed that members would be warned of the limitations of such methods. Sets of notes on "Absence due to Sickness" and "Employee's Holiday Entitlement", embodying recent changes in the J.I.C. Agreements, were approved. Equipment for preparing purified water in the pharmacy was examined with a view to initiating a new scheme for members in the Autumn. Provision of rubber stamps embossed "Levy not paid" was considered, but in view of the stock of similar stamps still held from the previous occasions when charges were in force, it was decided not to repeat the offer. Further progress had been made in clearing the backlog of orders for new style metric weights, and ways for speeding up the Government stamping operation were being examined. An outline scheme for meeting members' requirements for white coats and overalls was considered. It was agreed to plan for an announcement early in 1969.

After examining a report about the Government's proposal to abolish a right of appeal under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1960, the Executive Committee agreed that a letter should be sent to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The effect of the proposal would be to abolish the right of appeal against the refusal of planning consent to display advertisements (including a chemist's sign).

Antifertility Agents

STUDIES AT A SOCIETY FOR DRUG RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ANTIFERTILITY agents, their syntheses, modes of action and clinical use in the female were discussed at a symposium organised by the Society for Drug Research and held in London earlier in the year.

The Possibilities

The symposium opened with a survey by DR. B. T. DONOVAN (Department of Neuro-endocrinology, Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital, London), of possible physiological bases of fertility control. Three approaches were possible, he said. First, the formation and release of the germ cells from the ovaries might be prevented. That could be done in several ways. Certain adrenergic-blocking drugs would inhibit ovulation (though the mode of action was not known). Tranquillisers given to young women had been known to interrupt the menstrual cycle and stop ovulation, with lactation sometimes occurring as a side effect. The action of the gonadotrophic hormones could be blocked by immunological means, for example by using animal sera containing antibodies induced by inoculation with the hormone. A further possibility was to immunise against spermatozoa themselves, so that they agglutinated in the vaginal tract after coitus. A third process, impracticable as yet, would be to interfere with the action of the gonadotrophic hormones by administering suitable synthetic analogues.

Second basis was to stop fertilisation taking place. It might be possible to inhibit spermatozoa by controlling the consistency of the cervical mucus, which varied throughout the menstrual cycle. If the mucus could be given the toughness it had at certain stages in the cycle, the sperm would be unable to penetrate. The suggestion had been made that spermatozoa needed hyaluronidase in order to penetrate the ovum. *In-vitro* penetration could be prevented with hyaluronidase-blocking substances, but no success had yet been obtained *in vivo*.

Third basis was to prevent implantation of the fertilised egg in the uterus wall. It might be possible to administer orally a drug that was secreted through the wall of the uterus. Any such drug would need to be specifically toxic to the fertilised egg. None was yet known. The "morning-after" pill rendered the mucosa hostile to implantation, and administration of oestrogenic substances hastened expulsion of the egg. It might also be worth while, he suggested, to look at the possibility of interfering with the corpus luteum. That body was influenced by pituitary gonadotrophins which could be luteotropic at one stage of the cycle or, by stimulating secretion of ovarian oestrogen, luteolytic. A further possibility was the use of uterine luteolysis, a relatively recent discovery. It seemed that in certain animals the uterus itself could control the corpora lutea, but more was needed to be known about

the mechanism of action. How or where luteolysis was produced was not known. Nor was it known whether humans secreted luteolysin, and the use of a hormone derived from another species might be feasible. So far, its existence had been demonstrated only in guinea pigs, cows and sheep. Dr. Donovan thought it unlikely that the intra-uterine contraceptive device stimulated secretion of a luteolytic substance. The device did not disturb the menstrual cycle and might act by making the uterus more motile.

Hypothalamic Release

DR. MAY REED (Department of Anatomy, University of Oxford) dealt with hypothalamic-releasing factors and fertility control. Those releasing factors, she said, were assumed to enter the capillary-rich median eminence, which several workers had shown to be a possible site of action of the ovulation-inhibiting steroid agents such as norethynodrel and testosterone propionate, as well as that of the non-steroid methallibure. Extracts of median-eminence tissue, when slowly infused into the anterior pituitary of rabbits, caused ovulation, which in rabbits normally occurred only after coitus. Extracts of tissue from other species were also highly active in rabbits, and chemical examination of those extracts had led to the belief that the active principles occurred in the polypeptide fraction; five active components had been obtained. For comparison with woman, female guinea pigs were more suitable than rabbits, their oestrus cycle and tissue responses being more closely similar. Median-eminence extract had been shown capable of inducing ovulation in the guinea pig for a few critical hours when the follicle was nearly ripe. That tissue-extract-induced ovulation could be inhibited by norethandrolone, which might be acting on the ovaries, the pituitary and/or the hypothalamus. Norethandrolone had some action on the ovaries as it produced an abrupt inhibition of development of the corpora lutea and prevented the follicles from fully ripening. If, however, the administration of norethandrolone ceased, the animal immediately came into cycle and ovulated, showing that gonadotrophic hormones were therefore present in the pituitaries of norethandrolone-treated guinea pigs and present, too, in about the same amount as in untreated animals. Thus norethandrolone did not act at the pituitary level. Indications were that it acted at the hypothalamic level, but fertility control needed to be better understood before that could be decided. Possibly hypothalamic releasing factors other than gonadotrophin-releasing (such as corticotrophin-releasing and thyrotrophic-hormone-releasing) also played a part in control.

DR. V. PETROW (B.D.H. Group, Ltd.) gave a historical survey of the development of methods for produc-

ing synthetic steroid antifertility agents. He described the chemical pioneering work of A. J. Birch at the University of Oxford, that of C. Djerassi and G. Rosenkranz at Syntex Research in Mexico, and that of F. B. Colton of G. D. Searle & Co. in the United States, which led to the introduction in the 1950's of birth-control pills containing orally active progestins related to 19-nortestosterone (norethindrone by Syntex, norethynodrel by Searle, lynoestrenol by Organon). Work at B.D.H. had led to the introduction of the 6-methylsteroids such as dimethisterone and megestrol acetate, forming the basis of another chemical type of birth-control pill.

DR. V. A. DRILL (G. D. Searle & Co., Chicago, U.S.A.) reviewed the evidence for believing that thrombo-phlebitis and pulmonary emboli were not caused by oral contraceptives. Over the years there had been an increasing incidence of strokes in both males and females, but comparison between figures for the sexes showed that strokes in women did not correlate with oral contraceptives. Oral contraceptives caused no increase in breast cancer in mice, unless the mouse possessed a mammary tumour agent. Whether such an agent was required for tumour formation in humans was not known. Long-term studies appeared to show no correlation of breast cancer with the administration of oestrogens. Diabetics might occasionally be thrown off control by oral contraceptives.

Non-steroidal Agents

Attempts at fertility control using non-steroidal agents were described by DR. A. L. WALPOLE (Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.). The fact that certain drugs that produced their therapeutic effect by acting on the central nervous system could also reduce follicle-stimulating and luteinising hormone blood levels and cause a sustained release of prolactin was evidence, he said, that the central nervous system might have some control over hormone secretion.

Non-steroidal compounds that could inhibit production or release of gonadotrophic hormones included the dithiobiureas. An example was methallibure (I.C.I. 33828), which inhibited gonadotrophin secretion and caused a reduction in size of the ovaries and uteri in female experimental animals and of the seminal vesicles, prostate and testes in males. All effects seemed to be due to an action on pituitary function, probably through the hypothalamus. The compound was of no use as an oral contraceptive since, when given to women, it suppressed menstruation and caused drowsiness and gastro-intestinal discomfort; it could, however, be used to synchronise oestrus in pigs. In a dose of 1mgm./kilo it arrested the maturation of the follicles if that were already started. When it was withdrawn after twenty days of treatment, up to 90 per cent. of the pigs could be expected to show oestrus.

within a period of five to seven days. Another group of non-steroidal agents could be regarded as basic derivatives of triphenylethylene. They included clomiphene, nafoxidine and the compounds Upjohn 11100 A and 11155 A. The compounds I.C.I. 47699 and 46474 were similar to clomiphene, having an ethyl group in place of the chlorine atom of clomiphene. The *cis* compound I.C.I. 47699 acted as an oestrogen, producing full cornification of the vagina of ovariectomised rats, but the *trans* compound was strongly anti-oestrogenic and weakly oestrogenic. Even in high doses it did not produce complete cornification. Both compounds inhibited ovulation. Compound I.C.I. 46474 was most effective in preventing implantation in rats when given before day 5 of pregnancy. It appeared to have two modes of action. On the first day of pregnancy it acted as an oestrogen in accelerating the passage of ova (a surge of oestrogen from the ovaries was needed for implantation). On days 3 and 4 it prevented implantation by counteracting the surge of oestrogen. Another series of compounds that were released on day 4, and which were necessary for implantation in the rat, the oxazolidine thiones, inhibited the decidual reaction leading to implantation. For that reaction progesterone was necessary. Ergotoxin was known to interfere by its effect on progestin in the ovaries.

DR. DORA N. RICHARDSON (Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.) discussed the chemistry of the non-steroidal anti-fertility agents and the separation of the geometric isomers of the triphenylethylene type.

Hormonal Antagonists

Antagonists to gonadal hormones were discussed in a contribution by DR. R. I. DORFMAN (Syntex Research, Palo Alto, U.S.A.). They could, he said, be either anti-oestrogenic, antiprogestational or anti-androgenic, and had three modes of action. First was to decrease the tissue concentration of the hormone (by increasing its inactivation, increasing its excretion or decreasing its formation). Second method was to prevent formation of the active form of the hormone by preventing it from leaving its binding site. Finally, the action of the hormone could be prevented by interfering with a specific enzyme reaction. Dr. Dorfman described the assay he used for testing anti-oestrogenic activities and said that all progestational compounds possessed some such activity. Norethandrolone potentiated their action. In derivatives of 17-acetoxyprogesterone there was no correlation between anti-oestrogenic and progestational activity.

Anti-androgenic substances were used in the management of amenorrhoea. They could also increase fertility by stabilising ovulation. Low doses of androgens in males might also increase fertility, as there was a chance that androgenicity was related to spermatogenesis. The most powerful anti-androgen known—RS1301 Syntex (Δ^1 dehydroxychlormadinone acetate)—also appeared to have some progestational activity, being ten to twenty times more active than progesterone.

17 α -methyl-19-nortestosterone was a specific anti-androgenic agent with no progestational activity; it had been used in treating hirsutism.

When given to five-day-old male rats mestranol, both alone and in combination with progesterone, caused feminisation (a decreased sperm count and reduced weight of seminal vesicles and testes). That action could be reversed later with progesterone. Given to female rats testosterone propionate alone and with progesterone caused masculinisation and a decrease in number of corpora lutea. Progesterone could also reverse those effects. It was thus both anti-oestrogenic and anti-androgenic in its effect.

Factors affecting tubal transport of ova were described by DR. C. E. ADAMS (Agricultural Research Council Unit of Reproductive Physiology and Biochemistry, Cambridge). Under normal conditions transport took two to three days or occasionally (as in marsupials) one day. The time taken was remarkably constant, irrespective of the length of the tube or the gestation period. Studies of the distribution of rabbit ova in the oviduct related to time after coitus appeared to indicate that the function of the Fallopian tube was to hold back the ovum until the uterus was ready to receive it. Once the "signal" came the ovum was rapidly swept into the uterus. The length of time spent in the tube appeared critical for the survival and development of the egg. If transport took place in the first two days of pregnancy the egg would be expelled from the uterus, which at that stage was under the influence of oestrogen. If, in laboratory species, the egg were retained too long in the Fallopian tube, it generally died at the blastocyst stage. A survey of the literature showed that opposing functions had been claimed for oestrogens. However, it now seemed that in normal physiology, oestrogens

caused acceleration and progesterone retardation of tubal transport.

Reserpine, injected intra-peritoneally on various days of pregnancy, had been shown to slow down the rate of transport, probably by a local action. The intra-uterine contraceptive device had been claimed to facilitate transport. That was open to doubt. It could have caused an increase in gonadotrophin secretion, which could in turn have raised oestrogen levels.

Dr. Adams speculated that the next generation of "pill" would permit ovulation but would affect some other function such as uterine transport. The method should, however, be approached with caution, as ectopic pregnancies were not uncommon in the human and a "pill" that slowed down transport could cause that to happen or could cause a pregnancy to be delayed till the next menstrual cycle. Certain compounds with a molecular weight below 1500, such as mercaptopurine, could affect the egg itself, by penetrating the zona pellucida. No apparent change was seen but the egg died later as a blastocyst.

Final speaker, MR. A. M. R. NELSON (Upjohn, Ltd.), described the methods and advantages of synchronising oestrus in sheep. When a polyurethane sponge impregnated with a progestational agent was left inside the vagina of sheep for thirteen days, he said, they all came into oestrus four days later. The advantages of synchronising the lambing of a flock of sheep were that supplementary feeding and dosing with anthelmintics could be carried out at the most effective times.

PROFESSOR AMOROSO (Royal Veterinary College), in his concluding remarks, said that a balanced account of fertility control in the female had been presented. He speculated on the possible rôle of other factors, such as light and the pineal gland.

EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

Grinding of Pharmaceuticals.—To grind samples of pharmaceuticals and chemicals up to 200 gm. in weight, Pilamec, Clearwell, Coleford, Glos, have introduced a special version of their popular Megapact laboratory vibration mill. The new model permits four samples to be ground simultaneously in polyethylene bottles. Steatite, porcelain or aluminium-oxide balls may be used as grinding media. The bottles are cheap and may be discarded after use if required, or the sample may be preserved in the bottle. In the troughs of the oscillating cradles the bottles are held by a simple bar and up to four may be accommodated on the mill. Most organic materials can be ground to the lower micron size in a matter of minutes. Colloidal dispersions may also be prepared quickly. The Megapact PG mill weighs under 45 lb. and can be stowed

away when not in use. It is supplied with set of ten bottles and supply of balls. As with the larger Megapact mills, steel tubular grinding chambers can be provided as optional extras for continuous wet or dry processing.

Aid to Capsule Counting.—Rapid and accurate counting can be achieved with their new capsule counter, say the manufacturers, Cripps & Brown, Ltd., 64 Highfield Lane, Birmingham, 32. Capsules up to $\frac{1}{16}$ in. diameter can be counted by pouring them into the tray and gently vibrating until the capsules are arranged in orderly rows on the fluted base. The number of rows of capsules times ten (there being ten flutes) plus any odd capsules, gives the total number contained. Two sizes are available, both constructed of stainless steel and having an attractive brushed finish. 5 x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. size costs 15s. and $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. size costs £1.

The new capsule counter of Cripps & Brown, Ltd., 64 Highfield Lane, Birmingham, 32.



TRADE REPORT

The prices given are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. Various charges have to be added whereby values are augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock.

LONDON, JULY 17: Most prices of CRUDE DRUGS were repeated during the week in the absence of buying interest. Among the few changes influenced by new crops were BELLADONNA LEAVES and HERB, and SENEGA. Because of a shortage, on the spot PODOPHYLLUM (*Emodi*) quotation moved up to the same level as shipment offers. Costa Rican IPECACUANHA rose by one shilling per lb. on the spot because of a shortage for immediate delivery, however, the origin price fell by sixpence. Chinese MENTHOL was reduced by one shilling per lb. on the spot while Brazilian was increased by threepence for shipment. Australian HONEY was dearer, other sources being lower.

The market for OLIVE OIL was fairly steady, new crop being too far distant to influence the price. In ESSENTIAL OILS, BOIS DE ROSE was down sixpence per lb. Dearer for shipment were Madagascar CLOVE LEAF and Brazilian PEPPERMINT (both by sixpence per lb.) and LEMONGRASS (by about one shilling).

Pharmaceutical Chemicals

AMPHETAMINE.—BASE, 150s. per kilo in 5-kilo lots; SULPHATE, 120s.; DEXAMPHETAMINE, 270s. per kilo for 10 kilos.

AMYLOBARBITONE.—B.P.C. is 68s. 6d. per kilo for less than 100-kilo lots; SODIUM, 78s. 6d.

BARBITONE.—Under 50-kilos, 52s. 6d. kilo; SODIUM, 54s.

BUTABARBITAL.—Under 50 kilos, 122s. kilo.

BUTOBARBITONE.—B.P.C. 86s. per kilo for less than 100-kilo lots.

COCAINE.—35 oz. lots HYDROCHLORIDE, 105s. per oz.; ALKALOID, 115s. per oz. Subject to D.D.A. Regulations.

CYCLOBARBITONE.—Under 25 kilos, 75s. per kilo. CALCIUM, 75s. per kilo.

EMETINE.—HYDROCHLORIDE, £450 kilo.

ERGOMETRINE.—MALEATE, B.P., 127s. per gm. for 5-gm. lots; 10-gm., 122s. gm.

ETHER, B.P.—Per litre in 2-litre winchesters SOLVENT, 350 litres, 5s. 2½d. ANAESTHETIC, 6s. 10d.

ETHYL ALCOHOL.—(Prices per proof gall). PLAIN BRITISH SPIRIT, 66 over-proof (o.p.), in bulk, minimum 2,500 gall., 4s.; 500 gall. 4s. 1d.; minimum 900 gall. in drums, 4s. 2d. S.V.R. (68.5 o.p.), 4s. 2d., 4s. 3d. and 4s. 4½d. for same quantities. Absolute (74.5 o.p.), 4s. 4d., 4s. 5d., 4s. 6½d. SYNTHETIC grades minimum 2,500 gall. 66 o.p., 2s. 11½d., 900 gall. in drums, 3s. 1d. Absolute, 3s. 1½d., 3s. 4d. Current duty on fermentation grades, £17 4s. 3d. p.p.g.

IODIDES.—(Per kilo) POTASSIUM (50 kilos) 23s. 7d.; SODIUM (25 kilos) 32s. 9d.

IODINE.—(Per kilo in 50-kilos); B.P., 27s. RESUBLIMED 35s. 3d.—CRUDE 21s. 8d.

IODOFORM.—(per kilo) powder, 50-kilos, 6s. 6d. more.

ISOPRENALE SULPHATE.—5-kilo, 273s. per kilo.

METHADONE HYDROCHLORIDE.—Subject to D.D.A. Regulations, 2s. 6d. per gm. for 100-gm. lots.

METHYLATED SPIRITS.—(Per gall. in 45-gall. drums, 450-gal., 66 o.p.) INDUSTRIAL, 5s. 7½d.; PERFUMERY grade, 6s. 10d.; mineralised (64 o.p.), 5s. 11d.

METHYLPHENOBARBITONE.—B.P.C., 78s. 3d. per kilo for under 25-kilo lots.

NARCOTINE.—ALKALOID and HYDROCHLORIDE, 399s. 6d. kilo.

NEOMYCIN SULPHATE, B.P.—5-kilos, 550s. per kilo sterile and non-sterile.

OPIATES.—Home trade prices (per kilo), (subject to D.D.A. Regulations):—

	1 kilo and over	Under 1 kilo
CODEINE	s. d.	s. d.
ALKALOID	2,013 0	2,049 0
HYDROCHLORIDE	1,759 0	1,795 0
PHOSPHATE	1,531 0	1,566 0
SULPHATE	1,759 0	1,795 0
MORPHINE		
ACETATE	1,863 0	1,899 0
ALKALOID	2,272 0	2,307 0
HYDROCHLORIDE	1,853 0	1,889 0
SULPHATE	1,853 0	1,889 0
TARTRATE	2,219 0	2,254 0
ETHYL MORPHINE		
ALKALOID	2,346 0	2,382 0
HYDROCHLORIDE	2,003 0	2,039 0
DIAMORPHINE		
ALKALOID	2,221 0	2,256 0
HYDROCHLORIDE	2,030 0	2,065 0

PENICILLIN.—SODIUM, POTASSIUM or PROCAINE, 2.25d. per mega for 5,000 megas.

PENTOBARBITONE.—Less than 100-kilo lots; 93s. per kilo for ACID and 98s. for SODIUM.

PETHIDINE HYDROCHLORIDE.—Subject to D.D.A. Regulations, 5-kilo lots, 300s. kilo.

PHENOBARBITONE.—50-kilo lots, 55s. 3d. per kilo. SODIUM, 60s. 9d.

PHOLCODEINE.—8-oz. lots, 91s. 6d. per oz (3,227s. per kilo).

PHTHALYSULPHATHIAZOLE.—5-kilo lots, 32s. 6d. per kilo; 50-kilos, 31s. 6d.

POTASH SULPHURATED.—B.P.C., 1959 8s. 10d. per kilo in 50-kilo drums.

POTASSIUM ACID TARTRATE.—B.P. in one-ton lots, 286s. per cwt., 295s.; 1-cwt. 300s.

POTASSIUM ACETATE.—(Per lb.) 1-cwt. lots, 3s.; 5-cwt., 2s. 8d.; 10cwt., 2s. 6d.

POTASSIUM BICARBONATE.—B.P. powder, 110s. per cwt. 1-4 cwt. lots and 105s. per cwt. for 5-cwt. and over.

POTASSIUM CARBONATE.—50-kilo kegs 6s. 7d. per kilo.

POTASSIUM CHLORIDE.—Pure, 50-kilo sacks, 3s. 7½d. per kilo.

POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE.—(Per kilo), Pellets, B.P., 9s. 6d.; sticks, ½-kilo in bottles, 30s. 10d.; technical flake, 4s. 5½d.

POTASSIUM MANGANESE.—B.P. in 1-cwt. lots, 2s. 20d. per lb. Technical, 218s. 6d. per cwt.; 1-tons lots, quoted at 207s. per cwt.

POTASSIUM PHOSPHATE.—B.P.C. 1949, 50-kilo kegs of powder, 9s. 3d. per kilo, GRANULAR, 9s. 4d.

POTASSIUM SULPHATE.—B.P.C. '49, 1s. 2d. per lb.

POTASSIUM THIOCYANATE.—50-kilo lots, 14s. 7d. per kilo in kegs.

PREDNISOLONE.—ALCOHOL and ACETATE from 7s. per gm.

PREDNISONE.—1-kilo lots, ALCOHOL and ACETATE, 6s. 6d. per gm.

QUINALBARBITONE.—SODIUM and ACID are 99s. for less than 25-kilo lots.

STREPTOMYCIN.—BASE and SULPHATE, 2-85d. per gm.

SUCCINYL SULPHATHIAZOLE.—5-kilo lots, 46s. per kilo; 50-kilos, 45s. kilo.

SULTHACETAMIDE.—50-kilo lots, 54s. per kilo; SODIUM, 55s.

SULPHADIAZINE.—50-kilo lots, 46s. 8d. kilo.

SULPHADIMIDINE.—50-kilo lots are 29s. per kilo.

SULPHAGUANIDINE.—100-kilo lots, about 19s. 6d. per kilo.

SULPHAMERAZINE.—In 50-kilo lots, 37s. 6d. per kilo.

SULPHAMETHIZOLE.—B.P. Under 50-kilos, 85s. per kilo.

SULPHANILAMIDE.—50 kilo lots, 13s. 1d. per kilo.

SULPHAPYRIDINE.—6-kilo lots, 120s. per kilo.

SULPHATHIAZOLE.—100 kilos, 39s. per kilo; 50 kilos, 40s.

Crude Drugs

ACONITE.—Spanish *napellus*, 4s. 3d. lb. (4s. c.i.f.).

AGAR.—Kobe No. 1, 19s. 6d. lb., c.i.f.; European, 22s. 6d., duty paid.

ALOES.—(Per cwt.). Cape primes, 260s., spot; 250s., c.i.f.; Curacao, 510s.; 490s., c.i.f.

BALSAMS.—(per lb.). CANADA: 34s. 6d., c.i.f.; 35s. spot; COPAIBA: B.P.C., 10s. 9d.; c.i.f.; 10s. 6d., spot; PERU: 12s. 9d. to 13s. 9d., c.i.f.; 13s. 3d. spot; TOLU: B.P., 13s.-14s.; genuine as imported, 41s. 6d., c.i.f.

BELLADONNA.—LEAVES, 3s. 9d. lb., c.i.f. 4s. spot; HERB, 2s. 3d., c.i.f.; 2s. 4d. spot; ROOT, 1s. 9d., c.i.f.; 1s. 10d. spot.

BENZOIN.—Sumatra block B.P.C., spot £27 per cwt.

BUCHU.—LEAVES, Spot, 19s. 6d. lb.; shipment offers about 18s. 9d., c.i.f.

CALUMBA.—Spot quoted, 130s. cwt.

CAMPHOR.—B.P. powder, spot unobtainable; shipment, nominal.

CARDAMOMS.—Alleppy greens, 17s. 9d. lb., 15s. 9d., c.i.f.; prime seed, 25s., c.i.f.

CASCARA.—Spot, 300s. cwt., 290s., c.i.f.

CASSIA.—*Lignea*, whole, 500s. cwt., duty paid, nominal; 420s., c.i.f.

CHERRY BARK.—Thin natural, 2s. 5d. lb., spot; 2s. 3d., c.i.f.

CHILLIES.—Zanzibar 350s. cwt. spot.

CINNAMON.—Seychelles BARK, 225s. cwt., c.i.f. Ceylon QUILLS (lb., c.i.f.) five 0's, 10s. 4d.; four 0's, 9s. 6d.; firsts, 6s. 8d.; quillings, 4s.

CLOVES.—Zanzibar standard quality, 4s. 1d., spot. Madagascar, 3s. 5½d., c.i.f.

COCHINEAL.—(Per lb.). Canary Isles silver-grey, spot, 27s. (26s., c.i.f.); black brilliant, 28s. 6d. (28s., c.i.f.); Peruvian silver grey, 21s. 6d. (21s. c.i.f.).

COCILLANA.—Bark, 3s. lb., c.i.f. (spot, 3s. 3d.).

COLOCYNTH PULP.—Spot, 4s. 3d.-4s. 6d. lb.; shipment, 4s. 8d., c.i.f.

CUBEB.—Spot quoted at 285s. cwt. DANDELION.—Root, 350s. cwt. spot; 340s., c.i.f.

ERGOT.—Portuguese—Spanish, 8s. 3d. lb.; 7s. 9d., c.i.f.

GENTIAN.—Spot, 235s. cwt.; 230s. c.i.f., both nominal.

GUM ACACIA.—Kordofan cleaned sorts, 245s. cwt. spot; 247s., c.i.f.

HONEY.—(per cwt., ex store). Australian light amber, 150s.; medium amber, 135s. Argentine, 155s.; Canadian, 185s.; Mexican, 130s.; Chinese, 120s.

HYDRASTIS.—36s. 6d. lb. spot; 36s. c.i.f.

HYOSCYAMUS.—*Niger*, 2s. 3d. lb. (2s. 1d., c.i.f.).

IPECACUANHA.—(Per lb.). Matto Grosso, 48s. spot, 47s., c.i.f. nominal; Costa Rican, 65s. and 60s., c.i.f.; Colombian, 47s. 6d. and 47s., c.i.f.

JALAP.—High-testing (15 per cent.), 6s. 9d. lb., c.i.f.; Brazilian, 2s. (2s. 1d., c.i.f.).

KARAYA.—No. 2 f.a.q. gum, 365s. cwt., spot; 335s. c.i.f.

LIQUORICE.—ROOT, Russian, 82s. 6d. cwt.; BLOCK JUICE, Anatolian, 250s. per cwt.

LOBELIA.—(lb.) Dutch, new crop, 4s. 3d., c.i.f., 4s. 4d., spot. American, 11s. 6d., c.i.f. and spot.

MENTHOL.—(lb.) Chinese, 37s. 6d.; spot August-September, 32s. 3d., c.i.f. Brazilian, 29s. spot; 28s. 3d., c.i.f.

NUTMEGS.—(Per lb.) West Indian (c.i.f.) 80s., 5s. 4d.; sound unsorted, 3s. 7d.; defectives, 2s. 8d. East Indian 80's, 4s. 11d. 110's. 4s. 2d., c.i.f.

NUX VOMICA.—Shipment, 110s. cwt., c.i.f.

PEPPER.—Sarawak white, 2s. 9½d., spot; 2s. 8d. c.i.f.; black, 2s. 1d., c.i.f. Brazilian black, grade 1, 2s. 9½d., duty paid. Malabar black, 335s. cwt., c.i.f.

PIMENTO.—Shipment, 700s. cwt., f.o.b.

PODOPHYLLUM.—*Emodi*, 230s. cwt. nominal; 230s., c.i.f.

QUILLAIA.—225s. cwt., spot; nominal.

RHUBARB.—Various grades offered at from 9s. to 25s. per lb. spot.

SAFFRON.—Mancha superior, 1,000s. per lb.; Rio, 975s., landed terms.

SARSAPARILLA.—Jamaican, 3s. 4½d. lb., spot; 3s. 2d., c.i.f.

SEEDS.—(Per cwt.)—ANISE.—China star, 270s., in bond. CORIANDER—Moroccan, 85s., duty paid; new crop, September-October, 52s. 6d., c.i.f.; Rumanian, whole, 100s.; splits, 95s., both duty paid. CUMIN.—Iranian, 165s., duty paid; 125s., c.i.f.

DILL.—Indian, 142s. 6d.; 112s. 6d., c.i.f. FENNEL—Chinese, 150s., duty paid; Indian, 185s.; 160s., c.i.f. FENUGREEK.—Moroccan, afloat 75s.; new crop for July-August, 60s., c.i.f.

MUSTARD.—English, medium quality, 85s.

SENGA.—Canadian, spot, 32s. lb.; new crop, 31s., c.i.f. Japanese, 27s. 6d., in bond.

SENNA.—(Per lb.) Tinnevelly LEAVES spot; Prime No. 1, 2s. 3d.; No. 3, f.a.q., 1s. 4½d.; shipment, No. 3, 1s. 2½d., c.i.f. rods; Tinnevelly hand-picked, spot, 2s. 10d.; manufacturing 1s. 9d. Alexandria hand-picked, from 4s. 6d. to 7s. as to grade; manufacturing forward, 2s. 2d., c.i.f.; spot, 2s. 4d.

SQUILL.—WHITE, 155s., cwt.; new crop, 140s., c.i.f.

STYRAX.—Spot, 21s. 3d. lb. (21s., c.i.f.)

TRAGACANTH.—No. 1, £280 cwt.; No. 2, £250 spot.

TONQUIN BEANS.—Para, 9s. lb., c.i.f. (10s. spot); Angostura seconds, 7s. landed.

TURMERIC.—Madras spot, 197s. 6d. cwt.; shipment and afloat, 180s., c.i.f.

VALERIAN ROOT.—Indian, 300s. cwt.; spot and c.i.f.; Continental, 470s. c.i.f., 475s., spot.

VANILLIN.—(Per lb.), 5-cwt. lots, 21s. 6d., 2-cwt., 21s. 9d.; 56-lb., 22s.; small quantities, 22s. 6d.

WAXES.—(Per cwt.) Bees', Dar-es-Salaam, 785s., c.i.f. CANDELLILA, 550s., spot; CARNAUBA, fatty grey, 335s.; 312s. 6d., c.i.f.; prime yellow, 465s., 425s., c.i.f.

WITCH HAZEL LEAVES.—4s. 8d. lb., spot; 4s. 6d., c.i.f.

Essential and Expressed Oils

ALMOND.—Spanish, 5s. 3d. lb.

BERGAMOT.—Spot, 105s. to 111s. 6d. lb.

BOIS DE ROSE.—Brazilian, 19s. 6d. lb. spot, 19s., c.i.f.

CASTOR.—B.P. £207 ton, naked, ex mill.

CINNAMON.—English-distilled, 75s. per oz.; other B.P. oils from 22s. to 130s. per lb. Ceylon leaf, 18s.; Seychelles leaf rectified, 20s.

OVERSEAS NEWS

UNITED STATES

"Compendium of Drugs" Proposed

PRESIDENT Johnson, in his recent "health message" to Congress, recommended that Congress should authorise publication during 1968 of a "United States Compendium of Drugs." Purpose is to make sure that doctors have accurate, reliable and complete information on available drugs. The President said the compendium would be prepared by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in co-operation with pharmaceutical manufacturers (who would bear the cost of publication) and with physicians and pharmacists. It would give information on use and dosage, warnings, manufacturer, generic and brand names and facts about safety and effectiveness. Pharmaceutical aspects of the President's message are in the American Pharmaceutical Association's *Newsletter*.

INDIA

Manufacturers' Problems

PROBLEMS facing the pharmaceutical industry in India today are basically the creation of the 1963 "irrational" price freeze which has also affected the general financial structure of the industry. With the enforcement of the freeze no attempt was made to initiate the complementary step of controlling the prices of raw material used in the production of medicines. That was the view of Mr. K. Roy who heads the 71-member organisation of Phar-

CLOVE.—(lb.) Madagascar leaf, shipment, 13s., c.i.f.; spot, cleared, English-distilled bud, 35s. (1-cwt. lots).

COD-LIVER.—B.P. in 45-gall drums at 12s. per gall., plus 30s. deposit on drums. Veterinary is from 9s. 10d. per gall. 25-ton lots. Delivered terms.

CUBEB.—English distilled, 100s. per lb.

CUMIN.—English distilled oil from 120s. per lb. Imported from 110s.

FENNEL.—Spanish sweet, 13s. 6d. lb.

GERANIUM.—Bourbon, 97s.-100s. lb.

GRAPEFRUIT.—Florida, 25s. lb., spot.

LAVANDIN.—French, 22s. 6d. to 25s. lb.

LAVENDER.—French, 50s. to 60s. lb.

LAVENDER SPIKE.—Spanish, 22s. 6d. per lb.

LEMONGRASS.—Shipment, 39s. 6d. kilo, c.i.f. (July-August).

NUTMEG.—East Indian, 48s. to 50s. lb.; West Indian, 80s.; English distilled, 110s.

OLIVE.—Spot £348-£355 per ton ex wharf. Shipment: Spanish, £278-£285 metric ton f.o.b.; Tunisian, £280-£290 c. and f. London.

ORANGE.—Florida sweet, 4s. 6d. per lb.; Spanish from 19s.

PEPPERMINT.—(Per lb.) *Arvenis*: Chinese, 10s. 10½d., spot; 10s. 6d., c.i.f. Brazilian, 10s. 6d., spot, 10s. 6d., c.i.f. American *Piperata*, 40s. to 47s. 6d.; Italian, 95s.

PETITGRAIN.—Paraguay for shipment, 18s. c.i.f., spot, 18s. 3d. per lb.

SPEARMINT.—American, 65s. lb. Chinese spot, 60s. per kilo; shipment, 58s. 6d., c.i.f.

UNITED STATES REPORT

NEW YORK, JULY 16: Hungarian CHAMOMILE was 50 cents up at \$1.75 lb. Spanish SAFFRON was weaker with adequate supplies. There were no changes in ESSENTIAL OILS.

aceutical Producers of India, in Bombay. He said that many plans for development and further expansion of existing companies had been deferred and introduction of new drugs had been stayed by manufacturers in the hope that new drugs may be removed from the purview of the "freeze." Despite those hindrances, he said, the pharmaceutical industry was growing slowly but surely. An additional capital investment of the order Rs. 400 million was envisaged, which would bring the total investment in the industry at the end of 1970-71 to nearly Rs. 2,000 million. Approximately 2,286 units were engaged in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products. Of them, 135 were major units responsible for 80 per cent. of the total drugs produced in India. He added that the vast Indian market of Rs. 1,750 million with its tremendous potentiality spelt hope to pharmaceutical companies already operating in India and to those still to come.—The Bengal Chemists' and Druggists' Association at its 46th annual meeting urged the Government to "canalise" the drug trade in the interests of those engaged in the trade as well as the consumers in general. The meeting also felt that immediate measures should be adopted to protect the interests of a large number of wholesale dealers in medicines as their field of business was being encroached upon by many manufacturing concerns who appointed their own distributors.

ARGENTINA

Drug Theft Traced

AMEPRIPERINA (amitriptyline) valued at 20 million pesos stolen from Customs in Buenos Aires, has been traced to a wholesaler in Buenos Aires, who is said to have purchased the drug knowing that it had been stolen. Three persons were believed to have been involved in the theft and have been apprehended.

AUSTRALIA

Effect of Drugs on Dough

THE possibility that the use of laboratory animals for initial screening of possible new anaesthetics and stimulants could be replaced by ordinary baker's dough has resulted as a by-product of studies at the Bread Research Institute, North Ryde, New South Wales. It has been found that, when general anaesthetics are added to dough, its elasticity is increased. Stimulants such as caffeine or strychnine produce the opposite effect: they cause the dough to become crumbly. The test appears to be "very sensitive." Thus when theobromine (chemically similar to caffeine but without its stimulant properties) is added no change occurs in the physical behaviour of the dough. The test has been repeated with almost forty different general anaesthetics representing a wide range of those depressants of the central nervous system. Without exception all had the same effect on dough.

PATENTS

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED
From the "Official Journal (Patents),"

July 10, 1968

Antibiotic copianycin and process for the preparation thereof. T. Aria, 1,124,093.*Tablet formulation.* Fisons Pharmaceuticals, Ltd, 1,124,115.*Film forming pesticidal compositions.* Walparum Co., Ltd, 1,124,120.*Method for the separation of agarpectin from agarose.* Marine Colloids, Inc. 1,124,207.*Veterinary preparations.* Hoffmann-La Roche & Co., A.G. 1,124,224.*Quinine polygalacturonate.* Napp, Ltd. 1,124,239.*Herbicidal compositions and methods of application thereof.* Upjohn Co. 1,124,270.*Insecticidal powders.* Mechema, Ltd. 1,124,296.*Pharmaceutical preparations containing piperidine derivatives.* CIBA, Ltd. 1,124,308.*Pharmaceutical and veterinary antifungal compositions.* Uniroyal, Inc. 1,124,310.*Process for manufacturing therapeutically active derivatives of p-dihydroxybenzene.* Laboratories OM., S.A. 1,124,390.*Noralkaloids and process for preparing same.* Eli Lilly & Co. 1,124,441.*Indwelling catheter.* Baxter Laboratories, Inc. 1,124,599.*Sulphur-containing derivatives of pyridazone-6 and herbicidal compositions containing the same.* Badische Anilin- & Soda-Fabrik, A.G. 1,124,659.*Complex of propoxyphene and salicylic acid and therapeutic compositions comprising the same.* Eli Lilly & Co. 1,124,686.*Hydrocortisone derivative.* Mundipharma, A.G. 1,124,720.*Penicillins and a process for the preparation thereof.* Bristol-Myers Co. 1,124,920.*Pharmaceutical compositions.* Biorex Laboratories, Ltd. 1,124,976.*British patent specifications relating to the above will be obtainable (price 4s. 6d. each) from the Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2, from August 21.*

TRADE MARKS

APPLICATIONS ADVERTISED
BEFORE REGISTRATION

"Trade Marks Journal," July 3, No. 4688

TEFORCIN, 912,810, by Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical Co., Morris Plains, New Jersey, U.S.A. For pharmaceutical preparations and substances, all for human use (5)*ETRUSCOMYCIN,* 914,077, by Società Farmaceutici Italia, Milan, Italy. For pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations for use in antibiotic and fungicide therapies (5)*EMDAZYM,* 915,203, by E. Merck, A.G., Darmstadt, 61, Germany. Device, 919,234, by Safety and First Aid Services (Safe-Aid), Ltd., Liverpool, 15. *BETAPTIN,* 920,306, by A.B. Astra, Sodertalje, Sweden. For pharmaceutical preparations and substances (5)*FRUITINES-VICHY,* 918,703, by Pointet et Cie, Paris, 17, France. For pharmaceutical products (5)*Device,* 919,226, by Safety and First Aid Services (Safe-Aid), Ltd., Liverpool, 15. *For cleansing pads, tissues and swabs, all being medicated; material prepared for bandaging; medical and surgical plasters and dressings; compresses; medicated cellulose wool; lint and tissues, all for medical purposes; gauze for dressings (5)**VASCULIT PL,* 919,731, by C. H. Boehringer Sohn, Ingelheim-on-Rhine, Germany. For pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations and substances; medical and surgical plasters; material prepared for bandaging; disinfectants and antiseptics; and preparations for killing weeds and destroying vermin (5)*SETRANASE,* 919,796, by William H. Rorer, Inc., Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. For pharmaceutical preparations containing bromelain tetracycline (5)*DUOCOXIN,* 921,637, by Merck & Co., Inc.,*Rahway, New Jersey, U.S.A. For medicinal and pharmaceutical preparations and substances for human and veterinary use; sanitary substances (5)**VISI-TROL,* 920,226, by Bristol-Myers Co., New York, U.S.A. For medicinal, pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations (5)*CIBAGAL,* 921,201, by CIBA, Ltd., Basle, Switzerland. For pharmaceutical preparations and substances for human and veterinary use (5)*XAVE,* 900,264, by Etablissements Aesup, Vaduz, Lichtenstein. For electric shavers, razors, razor blades, cases for razors; apparatus and appliances, none being machines, for setting and sharpening razors; and strops for safety razor blades (8)*Device,* 904,337, by Swedish Crown Comb Co., A.B., Gothenberg, C, Sweden. For combs (21)*DRYLENKA,* 916,559, by Algemene Kunstzijde Unie, N.V., Arnhem, Holland. For sponges; brushes; etc. (21)*EWVIMAL,* 918,587, *CALVIMAL,* 918,583, *EWVILMA,* 918,585, by Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., Greenford, Middlesex. For agricultural, horticultural and forestry products and grains; foodstuffs for animals; and malt (31)"Trade Marks Journal"
July 10, No. 4689*CELPHIDE,* 918,494, by Warner, Harvey & Co., Ltd., London, W.1. For chemical products for use in the manufacture of cosmetics and of pharmaceutical products (1)*FACT,* 888,751, by Bristol-Myers Co., New York, U.S.A. For dentifrices (3)*OPTICLEEN CLEANSER* (device), 894,506, by Gaskell & Chambers, Ltd., Solihull, Warwick. For soaps, detergents and cleaning and scouring preparations, all for use with apparatus for dispensing liquid in predetermined quantities, etc. (3)*JOHNSON'S SHOWER TO SHOWER,* 907,088, by Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A. For talcum powder for toilet use (3)*ACTICLORIN,* 912,392, by Colgate-Palmolive Co., New York, U.S.A. For preparations and substances for laundry use; bleaching preparations for domestic purposes; household cleaning preparations; polishing preparations; and detergents (not for use in industrial or manufacturing processes); all comprising chlorine compounds (3)*YARDLEY LONDON LOOK,* 913,690, by Yardley & Co., Ltd., London, W.1. For perfumes, non-medicated toilet preparations, cosmetic preparations, dentifrices, depilatory preparations, toilet articles, sachets for use in waving the hair, shampoos, soaps and essential oils (3)*SILK OF AQUAMARINE,* 916,074, by Revlon (Suisse), S.A., Zurich, 5, Switzerland. For non-medicated toilet preparations, cosmetic preparations, preparations for the hair, shampoos, perfumes, dentifrices, soaps, essential oils and toilet articles, but not including toilet and face powders and cosmetic creams and liquids other than toilet and face powders or cosmetic creams and liquids containing silk (3)*SWING SET,* B916,908, by Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Nottingham. For hair setting preparations (3)*PINTA PEOPLE,* 917,082, by Milk Marketing Board, Thames Ditton, Surrey. For non-medicated toilet preparations, cosmetic preparations; soaps, perfumes, preparations for the hair, dentifrices, toilet articles; cleaning and polishing preparations (3)*LINC-O-LIN* (device), 917,978, by International Laboratories, Ltd., Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex. For perfumes, non-medicated toilet preparations, shampoos, preparations for the hair, and dentifrices (3)*TOP JOB,* B921,081, by Procter & Gamble, Ltd., Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne. For soaps, soap powder and detergents, all for laundry use; and cleaning and scouring preparations (3)*SEA-DRIFT,* 921,301, by Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Nottingham. For non-medicated toilet preparations, perfumes, soaps, cosmetic preparations, dentifrices, depilatory*preparations, toilet articles, preparations for the hair, sachets used in waving the hair, shampoos and essential oils (3)**SOMONIL,* 891,242, by CIBA, Ltd., Basle, Switzerland. For chemical preparations for killing weeds and destroying vermin; insecticides (5)*HIRUDIOD,* 902,717, by Luitpold-Werk Chemisch Pharmazeutische Fabrik, K.G., Munich, 25, Germany. For anti-coagulants, being pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations and substances (5)*JEYES MEDICOL,* 909,726, by Jeyses Group, Ltd., Barking, Essex. For pharmaceutical and sanitary preparations and substances, disinfectants, antiseptics and (medicated) gargles (5)*DUOFOS,* B910,102, by International Minerals & Chemical Corporation, Skokie, Illinois, U.S.A. For veterinary preparations; and preparations of vitamins and minerals for use as additives to animal feeding stuffs; all containing phosphates or phosphate derivatives (5)*J & J (device),* 909,745, by Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A. For plasters, bandages, dressings, cotton wool, tissues, absorbent textile materials and articles made therefrom, gauze, wadding, swabs, adhesive tapes, adhesive sheets, cotton tufts on sticks, chiropody felts, floss, and lubricant jellies, all being for surgical, medical and/or dental purposes; medicated preparations in the form of powders, creams, lotions, oils and gels, all being for use in the treatment of the human skin; sanitary towels and sanitary tampons (5)*H H HANORAH (device),* 912,285, by Hanorah Italiana, S.p.A., Milan, Italy. For deodorants and medicated preparations for the treatment of the scalp (5)*REGOVAR,* 912,454, by Syntex Corporation, Panama. For steroid hormone preparations for gynaecological use (5)*LAMBROL,* 912,863, by Montecatini Edison, S.p.A., Milan, Italy. For parasiticides for use in agriculture (5)*DYLEQ,* 913,498, by Alcon Laboratories, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A. For pharmaceutical substances (5)*VICTORY-V CHERRY-V,* 914,111, by Fryer & Co. (Nelson), Ltd., Nelson, Lancs. For medicated confectionery, all containing cherries or being cherry flavoured (5)*COOPER'S SAGUAIPICIDA Y LOMBRI-CIDA,* 914,155, by Cooper, McDougall & Robertson, Ltd., Berkhamsted, Herts. For veterinary anthelmintic preparations (5)

COMING EVENTS

Items for inclusion under this heading should be sent in time to reach the Editor not later than first post on Wednesday of the week of insertion.

Wednesday, July 24

CHESTERFIELD BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Visit to Birdsgrove House. Coach leaves Low Pavement, Market Place, Chesterfield at 2.15 p.m. (ticket only).

EDINBURGH CHEMISTS' GOLF CLUB, Monktonhall Golf Club, Ayrshire. Play for Thornton & Ross prize.

LONDON CHEMISTS' GOLFING SOCIETY, South Herts Golf Club, Totteridge Lane, London, N.20. Play for Captain's prize, Kerfoot trophy and Burgoyne cup.

MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL GOLFING SOCIETY, Mere Golf Club, Cheshire. Play for Woolley trophy and prizes. (Ladies Day).

Advance Information

WHOLESALE PHOTOFINISHERS' ASSOCIATION, Seymour ball, Seymour Place, London, W.1. November 26. Annual exhibition.

Courses and Conferences

BRITISH SOCIETY OF RHEOLOGY, Royal Military College of Science, Shirehampton, Swindon, Wilts, September 9-12. Conference on "Rheological Effects in Materials under Alternating Stress." Programmes and application forms from Dr. M. F. Culpin, 8 Broadway, Pontypool, Mon. NP4 6HN.

Prescribers' Press

What doctors are reading about developments in drugs and treatments

THERE has been a slight increase in mortality in young women from venous thromboembolism in recent years of a magnitude entirely compatible with the existence of a causal association with the use of oral contraceptives, report medical statisticians of the Medical Research Council's statistical research unit and the General Register Office. They have calculated regression lines (which reflect underlying trends) for the England and Wales mortality rate from thromboembolic disease per million population for the years 1953-62, a period during which oral contraceptives were little used. By extrapolating the lines to 1967 it has been possible to compare the slopes of regression lines calculated for the years since 1962. For men aged 20-34 years the 1953-62 figures provided an excellent prediction of the 1963-67 rates, but for women of the same age group, a slightly downward trend was changed to an upward trend (though there was no clear trend with time). The increase was, however, more than sufficient to account for the estimated effect of oral contraceptives on the death rate. In the age group 35-44 years the female death-rate had also increased to a greater extent than the male. But in the higher age groups, 55-62 regression lines provided excellent predictions of death-rate in both sexes. The authors point out that mortality statistics may be influenced by factors such as the frequency with which doctors make certain diagnoses. They also do not suggest that the data presented offers any positive evidence to support the existence of a causal relationship (*Lancet*, July 13, p. 94).

The wide prescribing of the amphetamines probably accounts for the ease with which these drugs can be obtained by patients who have become dependent on them, say workers at Queen's University, Belfast. They have

studied prescriptions for amphetamines issued by general practitioners in Northern Ireland during April, May and June 1966 (excluding private prescriptions and dispensing by doctors). A wide variation in use was observed. In 12 per cent. of practices amphetamines were not prescribed at all, yet 1.3 per cent. of practices accounted for 9 per cent. of the prescriptions (*Lancet*, July 13, p. 96).

DOXYCYCLINE passes into paranasal sinus secretions after systemic therapy, even under severe inflammatory conditions, workers at Karolinska Hospital, Stockholm, have shown. In a letter reporting preliminary findings they say that doxycycline was studied because of its long biological half-life. Other workers have been unable to demonstrate the presence of streptomycin or penicillin in active concentrations in sinus secretions. In tests on twelve patients, the present authors demonstrated ten times the minimum inhibitory concentration of doxycycline for the bacteria originally found in the sinus secretions. All patients were free from secretion after a few days (*Lancet*, July 13, p. 107).

CONTEMPORARY THEMES

Subjects of contributions in current medical and technical publications

BUQUINOLATE—A NEW BROAD-SPECTRUM COCCIDIOSTAT FOR POULTRY. Laboratory trials with *Vet. Rec.*, July 13, p. 30.

VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLIC DISEASE and the use of oral contraceptives, *Lancet*, July 13, p. 94.

AMPHETAMINES. Use of in general practice, *Lancet*, July 13, p. 96.

TUBERCULOSIS. Experimental chemotherapy of, *Brit. med. J.*, July 13, p. 75.

VITAMIN B₁₂. Anaphylactic reaction after injection of, *Brit. med. J.*, July 13, p. 102.

LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE. Chromosomal effect in vivo of exposure to, *Science*, June 21, p. 1343.

PRIMAQUINE-induced changes in morphology of exoerythrocytic stages of malaria, *Science*, June 14, p. 1233.

LSD IN MICE: abnormalities in meiotic chromosomes, *Science*, June 14, p. 1246.

DIARYLOXAZOLE AND DIARYLTHIAZOLEALKANOIC ACIDS: two novel series of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, *Nature*, July 13, p. 164.

PRINT AND PUBLICITY

A NEW television audience research service, TVRatings, will replace the TAM service throughout the United Kingdom from July 30. The new service will provide weekly reports giving audience ratings for all B.B.C. and I.T.V. programmes and commercials. It is organised for the Joint Industry Committee for Television Advertising Research by Audits of Great Britain. National samples on which TVRatings will be based are 25 per cent. larger than previous samples—2,650 homes. An electronic meter attached to the panel's television sets will register whether the receiver is switched on or off and to which channel it is tuned.

HEAVY advertising in the farming Press and veterinary journals is being undertaken by G. D. Searle & Co., Ltd., veterinary division, High Wycombe, Bucks, for their product Syncro-Mate, used to control the breeding cycle in ewes. The following papers are being used—*Beef and Sheep Farming*, *Farmer and Stockbreeder*, *Farmers Weekly*, *British Farmer*, *Farm and Country*, *Scottish Farmer*, *Ulster Farmers Journal*, *Agriculture*, *Farm News*, *Farmers Guardian* and *Farming News*.

POSTER ADVERTISING

W. B. CARTWRIGHT, LTD., Rawden, Leeds: Moorland indigestion tablets. On London Underground.



UP-DATED WORDS AND MUSIC: Song sheets in orange-and-white counter stands are now being issued by the Ovaltine sales force. They give music and words (slightly up-dated) of the signature tune of the Ovaltiners club.

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION

The information given in the table is of number of appearances and total screen time in seconds. Thus 7/105 means that the advertiser's announcement will, during the week covered, be screened seven times and for a total of 105 seconds.

Period—July 28 to August 3

PRODUCT	London	Midland	Lancashire	Yorkshire	Scotland	Wales & West	South	North-east	Anglia	Ulster	Westward	Border	Grampian	Erteam	Channel 1s.
Anadin	1/30	—	1/30	1/30	2/37	1/30	4/120	2/60	—	1/30	2/60	1/30	1/30	—	2/60
Andrews liver salts	3/45	3/45	3/45	3/45	3/45	3/45	3/45	3/45	3/45	2/30	3/90	3/45	3/45	1/15	4/60
Akit powder	—	—	—	—	5/51	—	—	—	—	—	—	2/22	2/30	—	—
Dettol	1/45	—	—	—	—	—	1/45	1/45	1/45	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disprin	1/15	2/30	—	1/15	1/15	2/30	1/15	1/15	1/15	3/45	3/45	3/45	2/30	—	1/15
Eucryl smokers' tooth powder	—	—	—	—	—	—	3/45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haze	2/60	—	—	1/30	—	—	1/30	1/30	1/30	—	—	—	1/30	1/30	1/30
Horlicks	3/90	3/90	3/90	2/60	1/30	3/90	2/60	1/30	1/30	3/90	2/60	2/60	1/30	3/90	—
Immac	1/30	1/30	1/30	—	1/30	1/30	1/30	1/30	1/30	1/30	1/30	1/30	2/14	—	3/90
Milk of Magnesia tablets	—	4/28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7/89	—	—	—	—	—
Nair	1/15	—	2/30	2/30	2/45	—	—	2/30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sovol	3/44	3/44	3/44	—	—	—	3/44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Steradent	—	1/30	—	—	1/30	2/60	3/90	—	2/60	3/90	1/30	2/60	2/60	—	1/30
Supersoft hair spray	5/150	4/120	5/150	5/150	5/150	5/150	5/150	4/120	5/150	6/180	5/150	5/150	5/150	6/180	6/180
shampoo	3/45	4/60	4/60	4/60	4/60	4/60	4/60	5/75	4/60	4/60	4/60	4/60	3/45	—	4/60